TOKYOPOP

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Da-Mi Seomoon

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TOKYOPOP®

He-ru is kidnepped end dregged into the frightening world of slavery, where vulnereble slaves ere pitted egainst eech other in combet—all for the king's enterteinment! Ku-ya and his gang appear to the rescue, but this time, it's He-ru's own special powers thet will get her out of this mess...

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Regarding The Seal

She was born with her power.
She wields the power of the dead.
And as she grows, it grows with her.
Unknowingly, she bears the
seal that marks her...

It sets her apart.

Some inherit the seal.
Their bloodlines afford them political [illegible]
From the Northern Continent, Hekazeus.
From the Sea Nation, Yumai.
And from the Red Desert, Cha Kun,
renowned above all others.

All who possess the seal are the custodians of power.
Some need a talisman.
Some token or trinket to channel forces beyond–sorcerers.

But there are others.

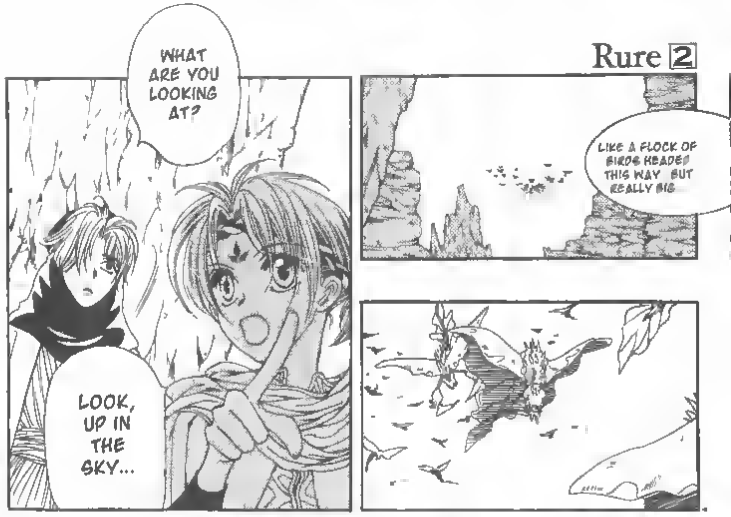
Lukia...
Those who speak to the dead.
They are born to it.
They need no token, no trinket.
Lukia are a precious rarity.

HA-RU, YOU'RE SUCH A LIAR!
MY DAD TOLD ME THAT YOU CAN'T SEE GHOSTS--NO ONE CAN! THEY AREN'T REAL!
I CAN I SEE THEM ALL THE TIME
SERI-OUSLY? YOU'RE GOING TO KEEP TRYING TO LIE TO ME?
I'M NOT A LIAR!
EVEN NOW... THERE'S YOUR GRANDMOTHER. SHE DIED LAST YEAR AND SHE'S RIGHT BEHIND YOU.

HOW DID...
YOU...?
I'M NOT PLAYING WITH YOU ANY MORE!
WHEN I WAS LITTLE, IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG TO LEARN THAT...
TALKING ABOUT GHOSTS WAS A BAD IDEA
IT JUST SEEMED SO NATURAL TO ME. I THOUGHT EVERYONE COULD SEE THEM. BUT AFTER LOSING A FEW FRIENDS I LEARNED THAT I HAD TO KEEP MY GHOSTS A SECRET.

MAYBE
MASTER SURE IS LATE. AS USUAL

SEEMS LIKE ANYTIME I'M NOT DOING SOMETHING, MEMORIES OF THOSE DAYS COME BACK.
I USED TO SEE GHOSTS ALL THE TIME, BUT SINCE I GOT HERE, NOTHING. IT WAS A RELIEF AT FIRST, BUT NOW I THINK I ACTUALLY MISS THEM.
I MEAN SERIOUSLY. ME JUST A REGULAR KID. I WENT TO SCHOOL. I HAD FRIENDS. I SURFED THE INTERNET! AND SUDDENLY, I'M IN A STRANGE MAGICAL DESERT, A SLAVE TO MERCENARIES, AND HOW I CAN'T SEE GHOSTS?!


WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
LOOK, UP IN THE SKY...
LIKE A FLOCK OF BIRDS HEADED THIS WAY. BUT REALLY BIG.

Ah, the Internet. I want to check my email! Oh, for goodness sake, where is he?!

HUH? WHAT'S THAT?

HA-RU? WHAT'S WRONG?
JEEZ, LAOM, DON'T SNEAK UP LIKE THAT

ROOOAR!
EEP..

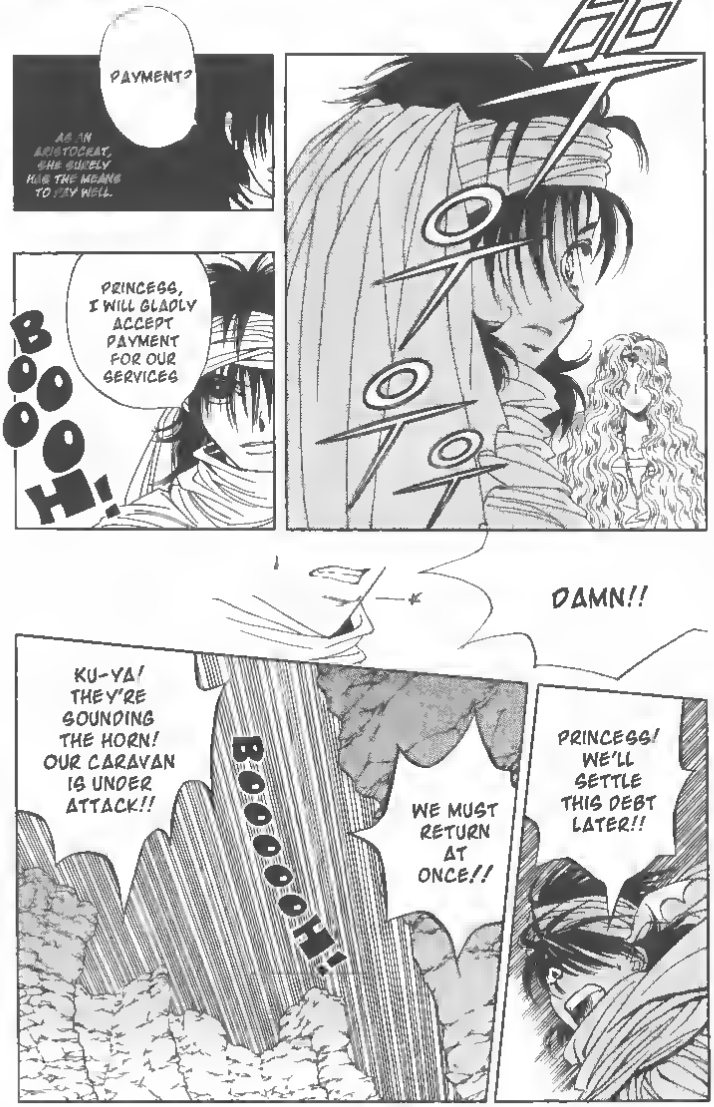
IT'S..
A DEMON!!

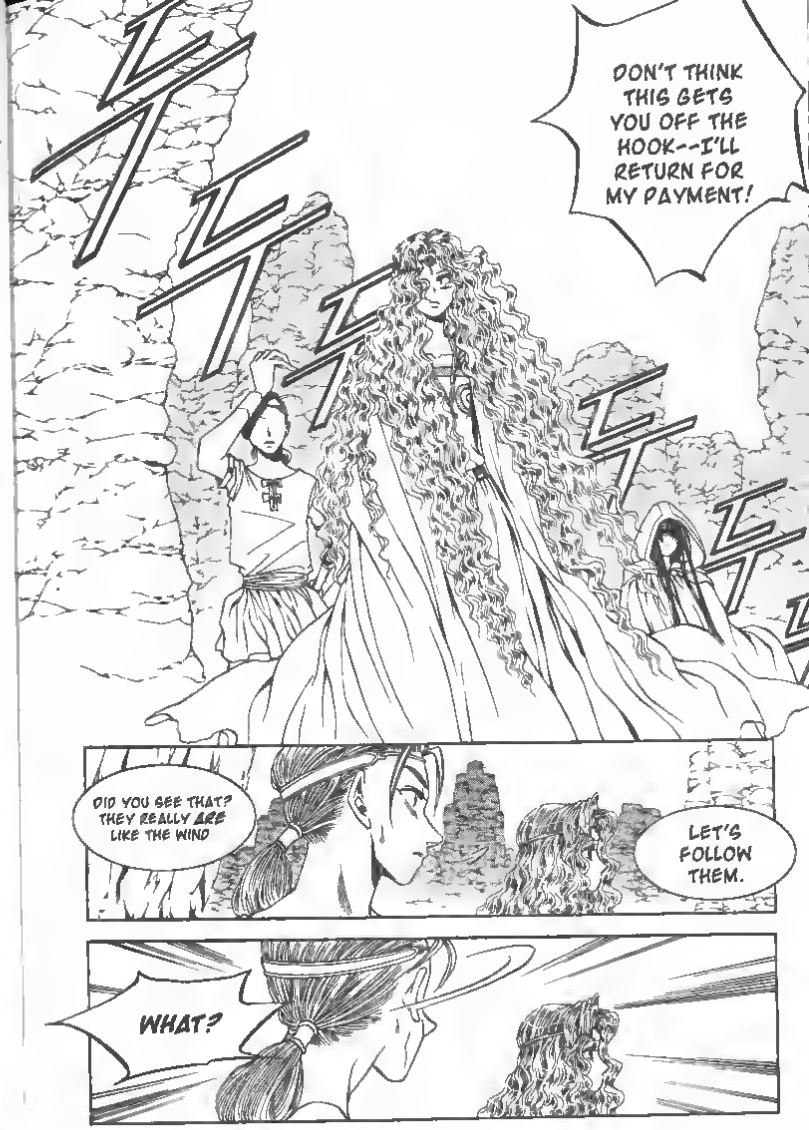
SO, THE DRAGON FLUTE...
...SUMMONS DEMONS?
YOKAM! GET UP OFF THE GROUND AND BRING OUR GUIDE BACK HERE!
PLEASE, KILL ME!
A GOLDEN HAIRED BEAUTY IF SHE'S A PRINCESS WITH A NORTHERN ACCENT, THEN SHE'S
SHE'S WAN PRINCESS OF WILAI AZUS
BECAUSE OF MY CARELESSNESS, MY PRINCESS, YOU ARE IN DANGER! I MUST DIE FOR MY TRANSGRESSION!
KILL ME, I BEG YOU!
DID HE SAY "PRINCESS"?

THIRD IN LINE TO THE THRONE.
ELEGANT LIKE THE MOON AND GLOWING LIKE THE SUN, SHE'S THE JEWEL OF THE NORTHERN CONTINENT
INDEED, ALL OF THE KING OF WILAI'S FAVOR IN ONE BODY
GET UP, YOU DISGUSTING PIG!
YOU'D BEG ME TO KILL YOU FOR SPILLING CREAM. I'M NOT YOUR MOTHER, YOU SNIVELING FOOL!

NOW GET UP AND DO YOUR JOB. IF YOU WANT TO DIE ONCE YOU'VE FULFILLED YOUR DUTIES, I'LL BE HAPPY TO OBLIGE.
OH YES, HIGHNESS. I WILL BE HAPPY TO DIE ONCE I'VE DONE MY DUTY.
YOLAN, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DIE. JUST DO YOUR JOB. WE NEED THAT GUIDE!
YES, YOUR HIGHNESS!
OUCH! THAT JEWEL HAS A SHARP EDGE
BUT I CAN SEE WHY SHE'S WON THE FAVOR OF THE KING.
FWIP
YOU THERE, DID YOU SAY YOU WERE MERCENARIES? I OFFER MY APOLOGY FOR INVOLVING YOU IN OUR UNFORTUNATE MISSTEP.
MOST ARISTOCRATS FACED WITH A DEMONIC ATTACK WOULD HAVE COLLAPSED INTO A BLUBBERING MESS.
BUT NOT THIS ONE... SHE'S NOT SOME FRIVOLOUS ORNAMENT. SHE'S INTELLIGENT AND QUICK.
IT SEEMS WE'VE SURVIVED BECAUSE OF YOU.

I AM WAN, PRINCESS OF WILAI.
I DISLIKE OUTSTANDING DEBTS. HOW CAN WE REPAY YOU?


PAYMENT?
AS AN ARISTOCRAT, SHE SURELY HAS THE MEANS TO PAY WELL.
PRINCESS, I WILL GLADLY ACCEPT PAYMENT FOR OUR SERVICES
BOOOH!
DAMN!!
KU-YA! THEY'RE SOUNDING THE HORN! OUR CARAVAN IS UNDER ATTACK!!
BOOOOOH!
WE MUST RETURN AT ONCE!!
PRINCESS! WE'LL SETTLE THIS DEBT LATER!!

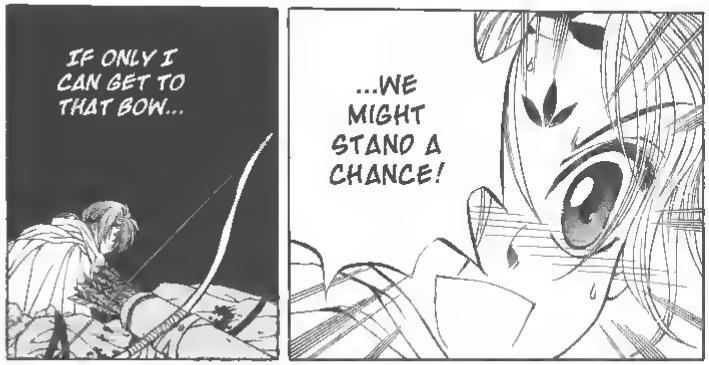

DON'T THINK THIS GETS YOU OFF THE HOOK--I'LL RETURN FOR MY PAYMENT!
DID YOU SEE THAT? THEY REALLY ARE LIKE THE WIND
LET'S FOLLOW THEM.
WHAT?

WEREN'T YOU LISTENING? THEY'RE UNDER ATTACK! FOLLOWING THEM WOULD BE SUICIDE!
DID YOU FIND THE GUIDE?
HE'S DEAD POISONED IN THE ATTACK
WHO EXACTLY IS GOING TO GUIDE US THROUGH THIS DESERT? YOU, YOKAM? HOW FAR DO YOU THINK WE'D GET BEFORE YOU WERE ON YOUR KNEES BEGGING FOR DEATH AGAIN?
THAT IS WHY WE WILL JOIN THEM.
AND FURTHER...
I HONOR MY DEBTS.
We're going with them. That's final
Yes ma'am As you command it
BU
OOOO

GET THE WOMEN AND THE SICK UNDER THE CARTS! QUICKLY, EVERYONE
WEAPONS READY, SOLDIERS! HERE THEY COME!
TAKE AIM!
CREAK
CREAK

FIRE!
AAH! GET BACK!!
GULP!

WHAT?!
MEEP!
GASP!
WE'RE GOING TO GET MASSACRED!
WAIT... THERE!


IF ONLY I CAN GET TO THAT BOW...
...WE MIGHT STAND A CHANCE!

CHA KI!!
H-HARU!

I-I'M OKAY! BUT I LOST MI-RU!
CHA KI!! ARE YOU HURT?

KU-YA! LOOK!!
RAAR!
OH, NO! WE'RE TOO LATE!

WHA... HA-RU?
MASTER!!
WHEN THE HELL DID HE LEARN TO DO THAT...?
다각다각
WAIT FOR ME! I'M HERE TO HELP YOU FIGHT.

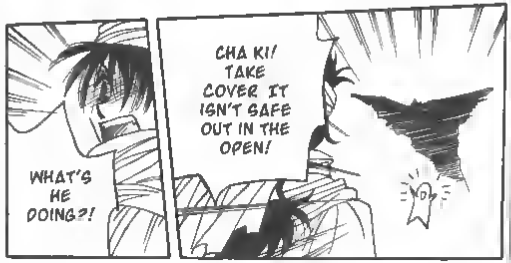
FIGHT? THESE DEMONS ARE DANGEROUS-- WE NEED SOLDIERS, NOT SERVANTS
PERHAPS LET'S MAKE A FRIENDLY WAGER
IF I KILL MORE DEMONS THAN YOU, YOU WILL TAKE OUR GROUP ACROSS THE DESERT
AND IF I WIN?
THEN, I'LL BECOME YOUR PERSONAL BODY-GUARD
WHY WOULD I WANT YOU FOR A BODY-GUARD?
THERE'S NO TIME FOR THIS DO WHAT YOU WANT
THANKS. I THINK I WILL.
IT'S A BET, THEN!
HE'S FROM THE BEASTMAN RACE!

UH...
HEY!!
MY, WHAT ER SHORT LEGS YOU HAVE
BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY DO HAVE SHARP CLAWS AT THE END OF THEM
IT'S A BET, THEN.
YOU HAVE NO IDEA.

WOW!
A-AMAZING...

GET HIM! YEAH, THAT'S IT. STAB! PUNCH!
YOU CAN DO IT!

GRRRRR

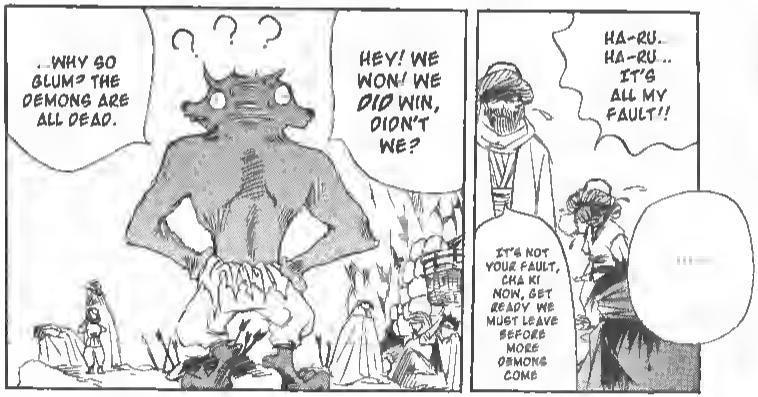

WHAT'S HE DOING?!
CHA KI! TAKE COVER IT ISN'T SAFE OUT IN THE OPEN!

ROOOOAR!
DAMN!

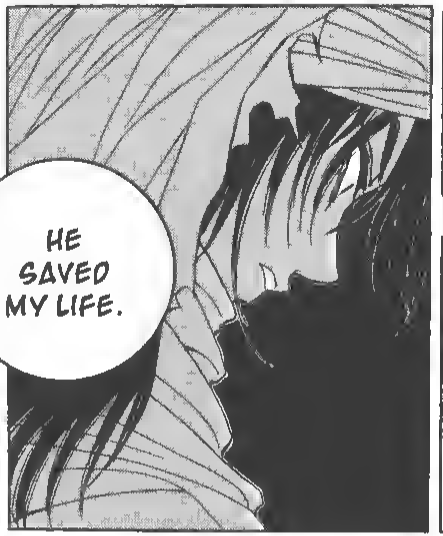
!!
MASTER!!
IF ONLY I CAN SWING HIM AROUND THEN MAYBE
SPIN NOW!
ARGH!
IT WORKED!

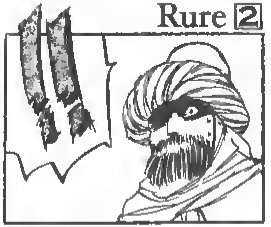
WHOA...?
HA-RU!!

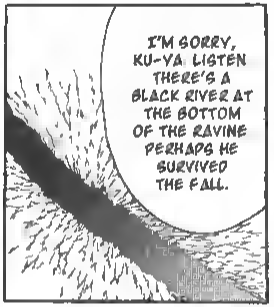
HA HA HAA! LOOKS LIKE THE SERVANT TAKES THE DAY.
I DO HAVE MY MOMENTS.

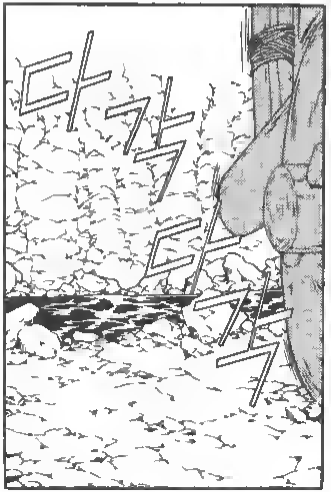

...WHY SO GLUM? THE DEMONS ARE ALL DEAD.
HEY! WE WON! WE DID WIN, DIDN'T WE?
HA-RU.. HA-RU.. IT'S ALL MY FAULT!!
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, CHA KI NOW, GET READY WE MUST LEAVE BEFORE MORE DEMONS COME

KU-YA! WE MUST GET MOVING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE I KNOW YOU'RE ATTACHED TO HA-RU, BUT WE CAN'T PUT EVERYONE IN DANGER BECAUSE OF ONE SLAVE!
HE'S NOT JUST A SLAVE!!

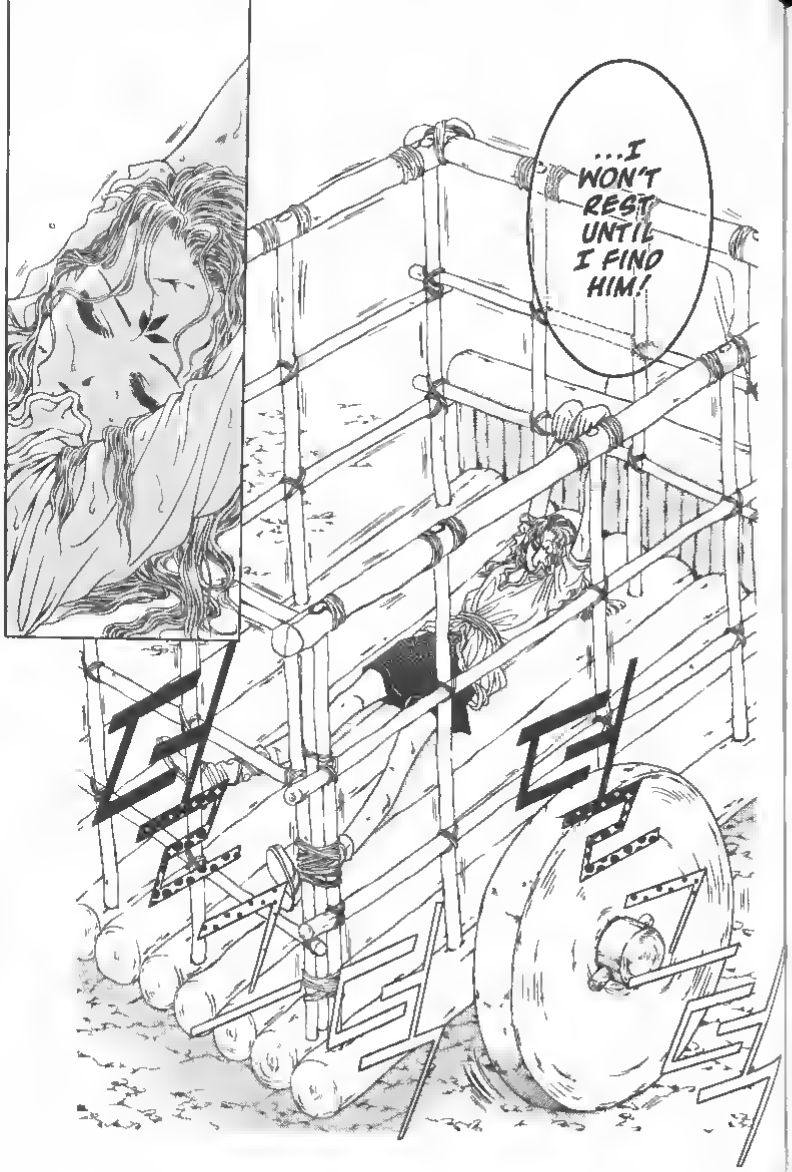

HE SAVED MY LIFE.




I'M SORRY, KU-YA. LISTEN THERE'S A BLACK RIVER AT THE BOTTOM OF THE RAVINE PERHAPS HE SURVIVED THE FALL.



IF THERE'S ANY CHANCE HE'S ALIVE.. ANY CHANCE...


...I WON'T REST UNTIL I FIND HIM!

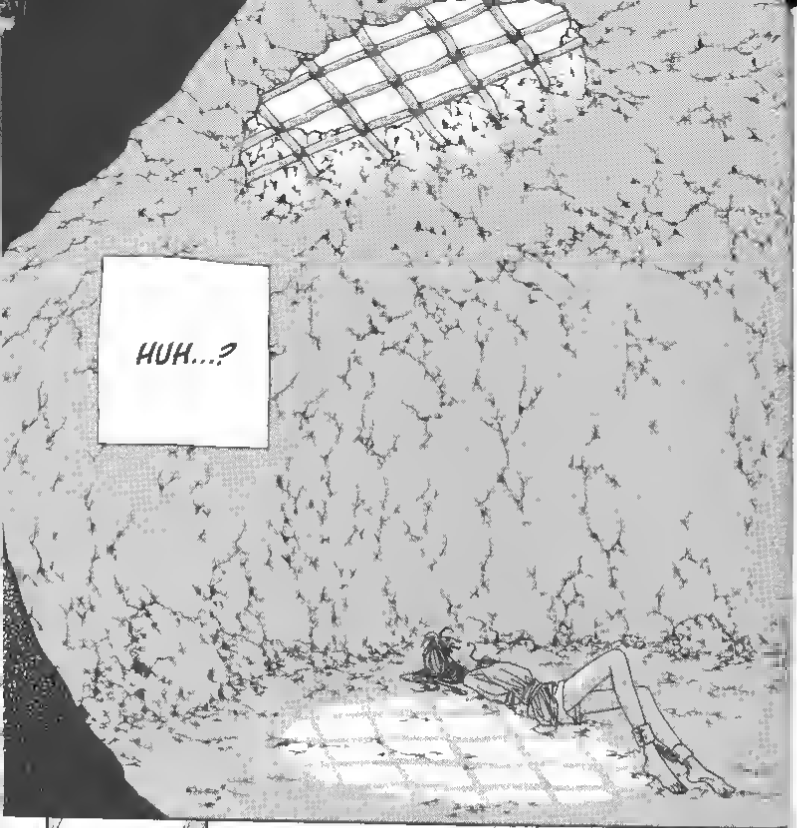
DO YOU EVER THINK ABOUT WHERE YOU WOULD GO IF I WERE GONE?
...I DO. ALL THE TIME.

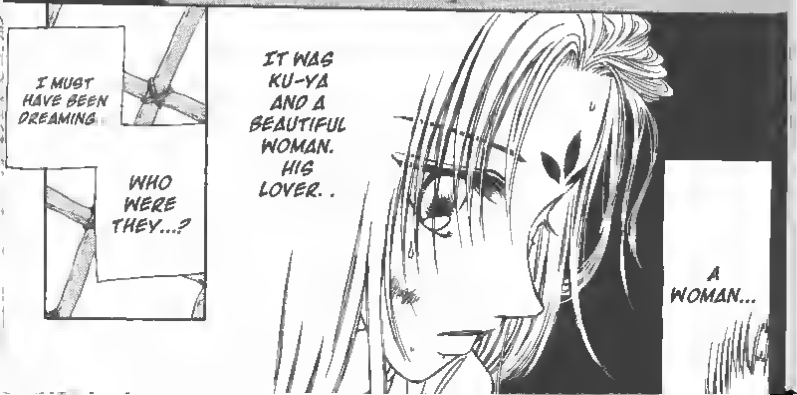
SO, LEAVING ME IS ON YOUR MIND OFTEN, THEN?
...I WON'T DENY IT.
MY TRUE ESSENCE IS OF THE WIND. IT IS NOT IN MY NATURE TO LINGER IN ONE PLACE FOR LONG.
KU-YA, STAY.

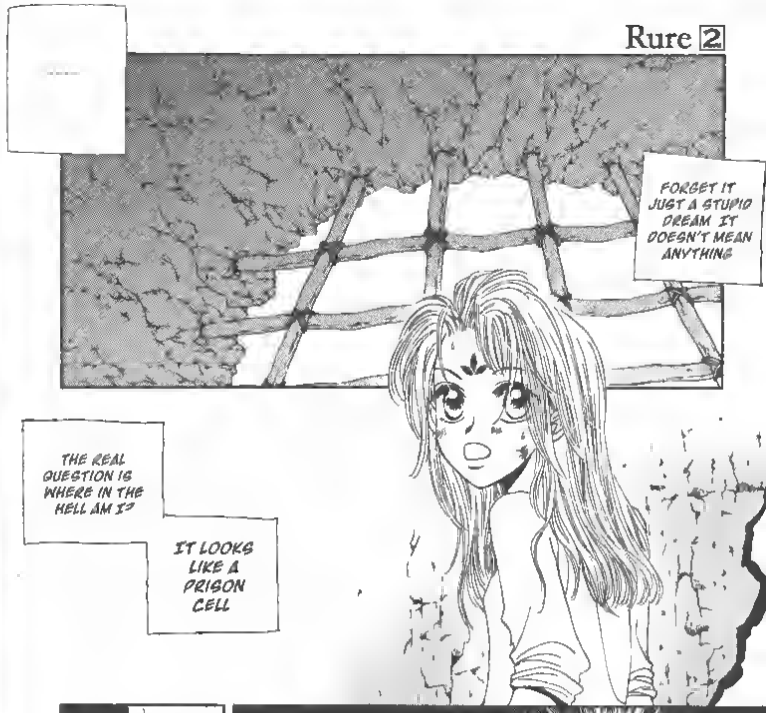
I SEE THE SADNESS IN YOUR EYES. I KNOW I CAN'T CATCH THE WIND...
.. BUT PLEASE, JUST WAIT A LITTLE LONGER. PLEASE.. IF YOU LOVE ME..
PLEASE DON'T CRY, SONNETI.
MY HEART IS YOURS.
I'VE GIVEN UP MY BELOVED SISTER AND REVEALED MY ALL TO YOU.

I'M FOREVER YOURS.

KU-YA?


HUH...?


I MUST HAVE BEEN DREAMING
WHO WERE THEY...?
IT WAS KU-YA AND A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN. HIS LOVER. .
A WOMAN...


FORGET IT JUST A STUPID DREAM IT DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING
THE REAL QUESTION IS WHERE IN THE HELL AM I?
IT LOOKS LIKE A PRISON CELL

BUT WHY WOULD I BE IN PRISON?
CLANG

OH, GOD HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?
SHACKLES?

HELLO?! IS THERE ANYBODY THERE? WHERE AM I?!
I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK YOU WOULDN'T WAKE UP
YOU'VE BEEN OUT FOR FOUR DAYS I THOUGHT FOR SURE YOU'D BE DEAD THIS MORNING
I'M GLAD YOU'RE ALIVE I WASN'T LOOKING FORWARD TO DISPOSING OF A CORPSE
...FOUR DAYS?

I'VE BEEN SLEEPING FOR FOUR DAYS?!
YOU SEEMED TO WAKE UP FROM TIME TO TIME. YOU'D OPEN YOUR EYES AND LOOK AROUND YOU DON'T REMEMBER?
IT MUST BE THE FEVER I REALLY DIDN'T THINK YOU'D MAKE IT
THE LAST THING I REMEMBER WE WERE ATTACKED BY DEMONS WE WERE FIGHTING THEM OFF
KU-YA.. I FELL OFF A CLIFF TRYING TO SAVE HIM.
SHUDDER
I CAN'T BELIEVE I SURVIVED. IT WAS A LONG WAY DOWN
THEN WHO SAVED ME? YOU?
NO IT WASN'T ME AND I'M NOT SURE "SAVED" IS THE RIGHT WORD
HA HA HA.
Just thinking about it makes me want to throw up
I'D TAKE A LOOK AROUND BEFORE I STARTED FEELING THANKFUL FOR THE RESCUE

I'M YANOK. WHO ARE YOU?
HE'S SO STRANGE LOOKING BUT STRIKING THOSE AMETHYST EYES, THE BLUE-GREEN HAIR EXOTIC HANDSOME
HE LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE OUT OF A FANTASY BOOK.
WAIT, WHAT? OH...I'M HA-RU SHIN.
HE MUST THINK I LOOK HORRIBLY DULL.

OH, NO! WHERE'S MY HAIRBAND?
HAIR-BAND?
IT'S PURPLE AND WHITE. DID YOU SEE IT?
YOU WEREN'T WEARING ONE WHEN YOU WERE THROWN IN HERE
Ku-yo gave that hairband to me
SO YOU'RE A SLAVE?
HUH? YEAH HOW DID YOU KNOW?
BY ANY CHANCE, IS YOUR MASTER AN ARISTOCRAT?
HE'S A MERCENARY...
SIGH...
IS IT THAT OBVIOUS?
OH, HARDLY.
You sure don't sound or act like a slave
IT'S JUST THAT A TWO-COLORED BRAIDED HAIRBAND MEANS "SLAVE WITH A MASTER."

MAKE WAY FOR THE SLAVE CARRIAGE! MAKE WAY!
SLAVE WITH A MASTER... THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS..

SAWAKA!
SAWAKA!
SAWAKA!

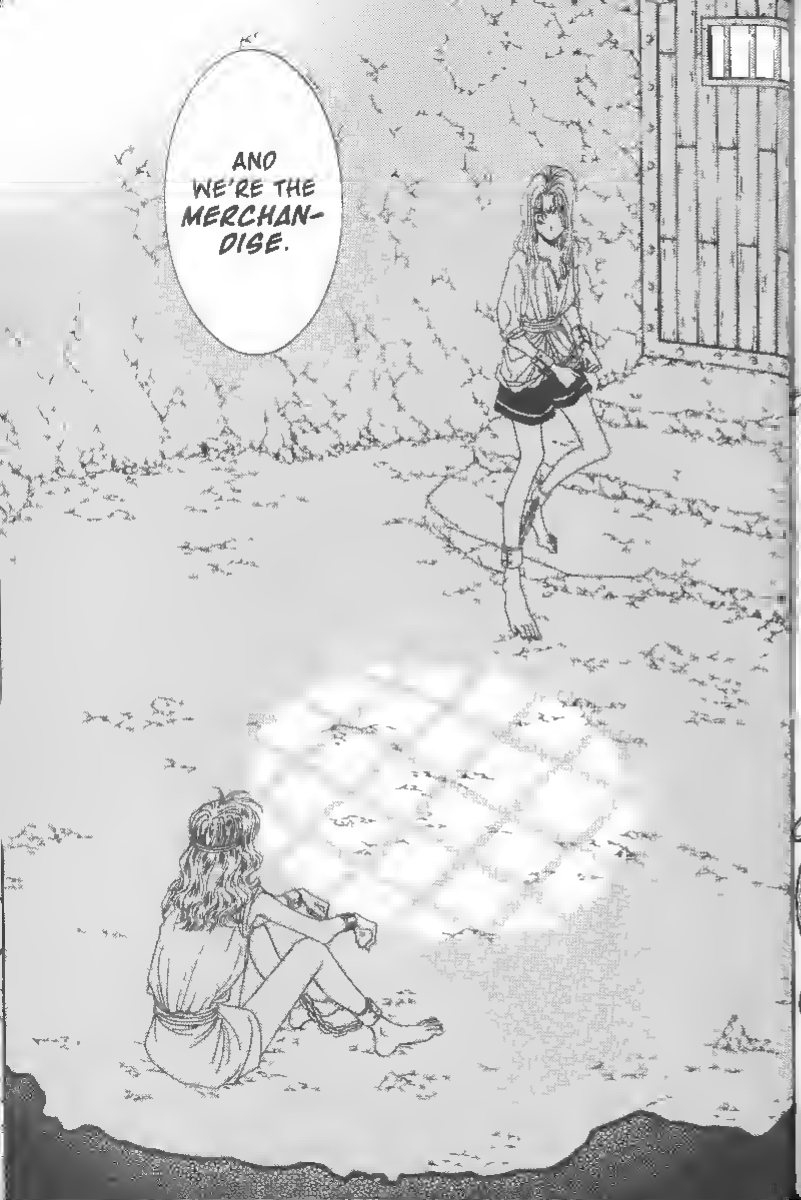
TSK, TSK...
SAY GOOD-BYE TO PEACEFUL DAYS

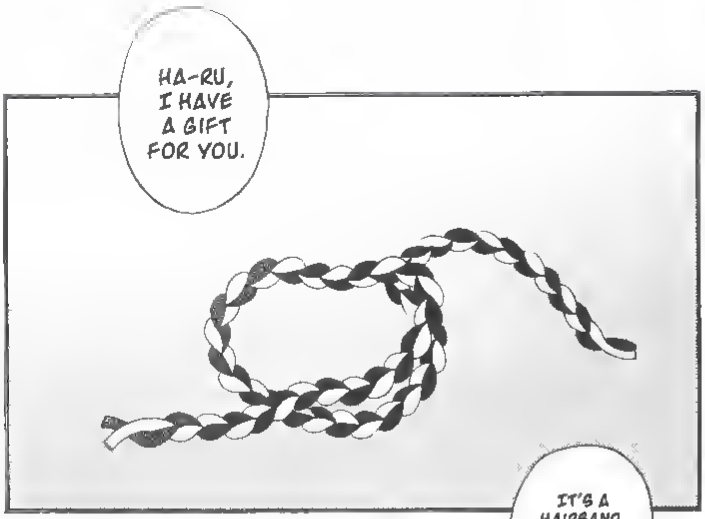
KILL THEM! SQUASH THEIR HEADS!
FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT!

SOME KIND OF HOLIDAY?
WHAT'S SAWAKA? AND WHAT'S A SLAVE CARRIAGE? WHY IS EVERYONE YELLING?
YOU'RE NOT FROM AROUND HERE, ARE YOU?

SAWAKA IS A CONTEST BETWEEN SAKA--WARRIOR SLAVES. THE CROWD PLACES BETS ON WHO WILL WIN.
THE BLOODIER AND MORE VICIOUS FIGHTS DRAW THE BIGGEST CROWDS AND THE LOUDEST CHEERS AND THE FIGHT DOESN'T END UNTIL ONE OF THE SLAVES IS DEAD.
FOR THE WINNER, HONOR AND FREEDOM. FOR THE LOSER, ONLY DISGRACE AND DEATH.
SAWAKA KEEPS THE SLAVE MARKET RUNNING.

SLAVE... MARKET?
YES. IT'S A MARKET.


AND WE'RE THE MERCHAN-DISE.


HA-RU, I HAVE A GIFT FOR YOU.

IT'S A HAIRBAND, AND I WANT YOU TO WEAR IT ALWAYS.

THIS UGLY THING?
WHAT?!
WHATEVER. WEAR IT. IT MEANS THAT YOU'RE MINE. SO IF YOU DON'T WANT SOME SCUMBAG DRAGGING YOU OFF INTO THE DESERT, KEEP IT ON

IT'S JUST SO...I DON'T KNOW... TACKY.
FINE, GIVE IT BACK!
SEE IF I CARE!
HA-HA-HA! DON'T BE SO SENSITIVE. I'M JUST TEASING. YOU'D BE GLAD TO WEAR IT.
IT WAS THE FIRST GIFT HE EVER GAVE ME...
I MEAN IT, KU-YA. THANK YOU.
I THOUGHT HE WAS MY FRIEND.
BUT IT'S A JUST A SIGN OF SLAVE OWNERSHIP!

I CALLED HIM MASTER HE CALLED ME SLAVE BUT I THOUGHT BEHIND IT ALL, WE HAD FRIENDSHIP
I THOUGHT THE MASTER-SLAVE THING WAS JUST A GAME WE PLAYED-- A JOKE
...HE REALLY PUT ONE OVER ON ME.

BUT I GUESS THE JOKE'S ON ME. HOW STUPID!
HEY_ I'M SURE IT WASN'T LIKE THAT
THAT'S IT!
SMACK

GET IT TOGETHER, HA-RU SHIN! YOU ARE THE PRINCESS OF THE LAST ISLAND.
WHAT WOULD YOUR BROTHERS THINK OF YOU, LOCKED UP IN PRISON WHINING ABOUT YOUR FATE?
YANOK!
CLANG
NOW FOCUS, HA-RU. YOU CAN OVERCOME THIS!
YES?
FROZEN

I REFUSE TO BE A SLAVE!
HOW CAN I FREE MYSELF?

KU-YA YOU THINK LESS OF ME BECAUSE I'M YOUR SLAVE
THAT ENDS NOW!

THIS IS IT WAKA. THE SLAVE MARKET.
COULD HA-RU REALLY BE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?

I DON'T KNOW. I HOPE NOT.
BUT THIS IS WHERE HIS TRAIL LEADS.
IF HE'S ALIVE, HE'S HERE. OR HE'S BEEN HERE.

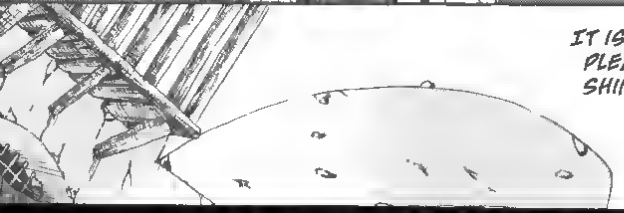
DO YOU THINK WE'LL FIND HIM?
I MEAN, THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE HERE.
IT'S HARD TO SAY. WAKA IS THE WORLD'S LARGEST SLAVE MARKET AND ON TOP OF THAT, MERCHANTS FROM THE CONTINENT AND THE DESERT MEET HERE TO TRADE. IT'S A BUSY PLACE
ONE THING IS FOR CERTAIN IF HE WAS FOUND BY SLAVERS, HE'S HERE
"WHERE IS HE? HOW SHOULD I KNOW?"
"I DON'T INSPECT THE MERCHANDISE THAT CLOSELY."
"YEAH, I SAW ONE WITH A MARK ON HIS FOREHEAD."

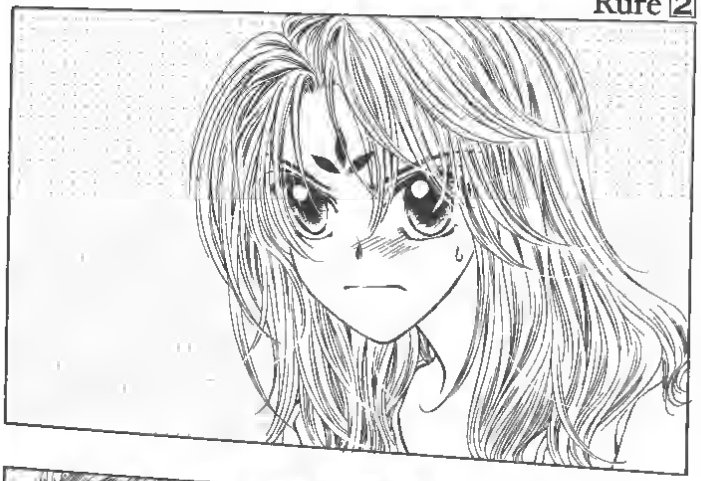
SO...
THIS IS THE LEGENDARY WAKA MARKETPLACE?
I'M NOT SURE I COULD HAVE EVEN IMAGINED SOMETHING THIS TAWDRY

IT HAS A CERTAIN CHARM, I THINK
I SUPPOSE I'M JUST ACCUSTOMED TO THE BEAUTY OF WILAI EVERY EDIFICE EXUDES GRAVITY, HISTORY BUT THIS PLACE? UGH
YOKAM, LOOK AT THAT MAN OVER THERE WITH THE COBRA DRAPED ON HIS BODY HE'S JUST ASKING TO BE POISONED
OH YES, HIGHNESS SNAKE-CHARMING IS SOMETHING OF A SPECIALTY IN WAKA, GOING BACK EVEN TO ITS EARLIEST DAYS
SNAKE-CHARMING? REALLY? FASCINATING! DRIVER, TAKE THE PALANQUIN CLOSER!
OH, HIGHNESS, WE REALLY SHOULDN'T ONLY THE LOWER CLASSES WATCH SNAKE-CHARMING IT'S CONSIDERED VERY CRUDE
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS, YOKAM NOBODY HERE KNOWS WHO WE ARE
HIGHNESS, NO! I'D RATHER HANG BY MY NECK
EXCUSE ME, YOU THERE STRING THIS MAN UP BY THE NECK IF YOU PLEASE
WHAT?!
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS! I'M ONLY TRYING TO PROTECT YOU AND YOU WOULD JUST THROW ME TO THE DOGS?
SHUSH, YOKAM YOU SAID YOU'D RATHER HANG WHAT ARE YOU ALL DOING? HURRY AND STRING HIM UP
I am with you a princess babe!!
Did you hear that? He called her "Highness."
Sh... must be a princess!
YOUR HIGHNESS! I'M SORRY! DON'T HANG ME!
YOKAM, SILENCE! YOU'RE GIVING AWAY MY IDENTITY
PRINCESS
WE ONLY HAVE A DAY TO SEARCH THIS PLACE DRAWING A MOB ISN'T GOING TO HELP
PERHAPS WE WANTED TO DO THIS WITH STEALTH AT FIRST, BUT NOW THAT MY SECRET IS OUT, WE'LL USE IT TO OUR ADVANTAGE I'M HIGH CLASS TO THE BONE WE'LL HAVE EVERY MERCHANT IN THIS FILTHY CITY CATERING TO MY EVERY NEED
IT WON'T TAKE MUCH TO FIND YOUR SLAVE ONCE WE HAVE THE EAR OF EVERY IMPORTANT PERSON IN WAKA
ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS WAIT.
REALLY?
WELCOME, PRINCESS!
PRINCESS, WELCOME TO WAKA A FACE AS BEAUTIFUL AS YOURS SHOULD ONLY REST ON THE SILKEN PILLOWS IN MY FINE ESTABLISHMENT--THE PARADISE INN
와그
와글
OH, NO! THE PARADISE INN IS A HOVEL COMPARED TO THE PALACE GRANDE!!
PRINCESS, COME TO MY FINE ESTABLISHMENT WHERE ALL OF THE MOST DELECTABLE DISHES ARE SERVED!
AND DON'T MISS THE SHAKE-CHARMING CIRCUS FEATURING ALL OF WAKA'S FINEST, MOST SKILLED SNAKE CHARMERS
PLEASE HONOR OUR HOME WITH A VISIT!
HO HO HO HO HO!
YOU SEE? NO NEED TO WORRY, MY FRIEND.

HA-RU...

I CAME ALL THIS WAY TO [illegible] YOU.
MY ONLY HOPE WAS THAT YOU BE ALIVE. BUT THERE IS NO END TO MY GREED.


IT ISN'T ENOUGH. PLEASE, HA-RU SHIN, BE SAFE!

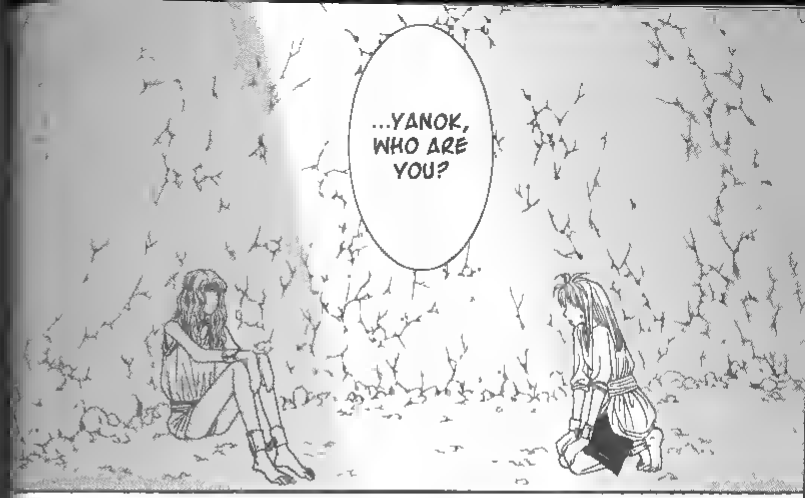


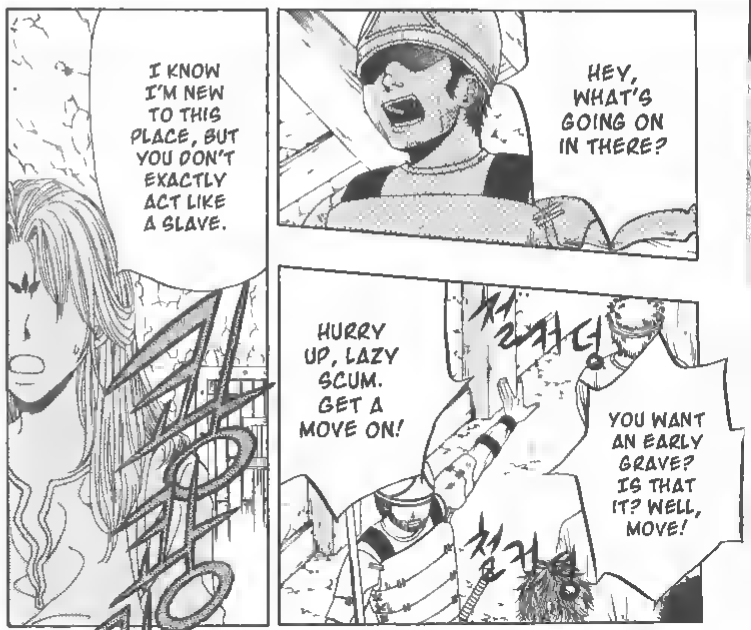
HA!
BWA HA!
?
HA HA!
WHAT? WHY IS HE LAUGHING?
YOU HAVEN'T EVEN BEEN BRANDED YET, HAVE YOU?

AND ...
NOT MUCH HERE
Are you a boy?
AAAAA AAAAH!
SLAP
HEY! LAY OFF, CREEP!
Flat as a board
JUDGING FROM YOUR REACTION, YOU MUST ACTUALLY BE A GIRL.
AND I'D SAY YOU'VE BEEN SPOILED BY YOUR MASTER.
YOU DON'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT A SLAVE IS OR HOW A SLAVE LIVES.
I'D WAGER THAT'S WHY YOU'RE SO CONCERNED OVER YOUR SOCIAL STATUS.

YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A SLAVE, DO YOU? A SLAVE LIVES AND DIES ACCORDING TO THE WHIM OF HER MASTER
IF YOUR MASTER BEATS YOU, RAPES YOU EVEN, THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO. YOU ARE AN OBJECT. A THING. AND YOU WANT TO ESCAPE SLAVERY TO IMPRESS A BOY FOOLISH GIRL ESCAPE TO SAVE YOUR LIFE!
THERE AREN'T MANY WAYS TO ESCAPE THE LIFE OF A SLAVE. THE MOST OBVIOUS IS TO WIN AT SAWAKA. OR YOU CAN GO INTO A ROYAL HAREM AND BECOME A CONCUBINE. IT'S ONLY A STEP UP FROM SLAVERY, BUT YOU WOULDN'T LIVE TOO HARD OF A LIFE
UNFORTUNATELY, YOU DON'T HAVE A CHANCE WITH EITHER OF THOSE OPTIONS. YOU BETTER HOPE YOUR FORMER MASTER FINDS YOU
AND YOU BETTER HOPE HE FINDS YOU SOON, BECAUSE ONCE YOU'RE BRANDED, NOT EVEN HE CAN SAVE YOU.

THE SADAN, OR WORKING SLAVE, IS BRANDED ON THE RIGHT ARM
SAKA, WARRIOR SLAVES, GET BRANDED ON THE BACK. AND THE LOWEST SLAVES, THE SADU, ARE BRANDED OVER THE HEART
INSTEAD OF SCORNING YOUR MASTER FOR GIVING YOU THE HEADBAND, YOU SHOULD BE THANKING HIM. HE COULD HAVE BRANDED YOU.
THE FACT THAT HE DIDN'T PROBABLY MEANS HE WAS PLANNING TO FREE YOU AT SOME POINT.


...YANOK, WHO ARE YOU?


I KNOW I'M NEW TO THIS PLACE, BUT YOU DON'T EXACTLY ACT LIKE A SLAVE.
HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON IN THERE?
HURRY UP, LAZY SCUM. GET A MOVE ON!
YOU WANT AN EARLY GRAVE? IS THAT IT? WELL, MOVE!

ALL THAT SHOUTING. WHAT'S---?
SHHH. JUST LISTEN.
THERE'S NOTHING MORE WRETCHED AND MISERABLE THAN BEING A FEMALE SLAVE SO DO EXACTLY AS I SAY. YOU ARE YOUNG ENOUGH THAT YOU MIGHT FOOL THEM
SMEAR DIRT ON YOUR FACE AND KEEP YOUR EYES LOW. OBEY, AND WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T LOOK THEM IN THE EYE
IF THEY REALIZE YOU'RE A GIRL, YOU'RE FINISHED. YOU'D BE BETTER OFF DYING. UNDERSTAND?
LISTEN CAREFULLY.
I AM MAHIR.
I'M THE OVERSEER. I CAN END YOUR LIFE WITH A WORD.

FORGET YOUR PAST. WHOEVER YOU WERE, THAT PERSON IS GONE, DEAD.
IF I SAY STAND, YOU STAND. IF I SAY SIT, YOU SIT IF I SAY YOU DIE, YOU DIE
FROM THIS MOMENT ON, YOU ARE SLAVES YOU ARE OBJECTS NOT PEOPLE
DISOBEDIENCE WILL BE MET WITH DEATH. NO EXCEPTIONS.
ONE BY ONE, YOU WILL COME FORWARD AND REMOVE YOUR CLOTHES.
THE BRANDING IRON...? I DON'T THINK I CAN HANDLE THIS
OK!

NO... PLEASE... NOOOO!
AAAAAH!
SAKA, WARRIOR SLAVE.
SADAN.
SADAN.
SAKA.
ONE BY ONE, THEY WENT FORWARD. THEIR BURNT FLESH SCENTING THE AIR
AND, ONE BY ONE, THEY WERE NAMED AND BRANDED.

I'M HERE. I SEE. I HEAR. WORST OF ALL, I SMELL WHAT IS HAPPENING. BUT I CANNOT BRING MYSELF TO BELIEVE ANY OF IT IS REAL
NO... YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME!
STOP THIS! I'M NOT A SLAVE--I'M NOBLE-BORN. YOU MUST RELEASE ME!
NO... NO, YOU CAN'T. RELEASE ME! LET ME GO!

NEXT.
SADAN.
NEXT.
THEN WHAT A RELIEF
WAIT A MINUTE YOU THERE COME BACK

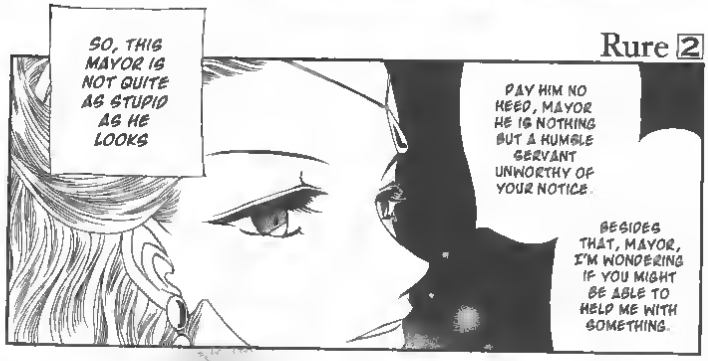
SOMETHING ABOUT YOU... TAKE OFF YOUR SHIRT.
DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME? GET OVER HERE NOW.
AAARGH! WHO DID THAT?!
I'M SORRY, MY LORD. I TRIPPED. PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
IT WAS A FOOLISH MISTAKE!
FORGIVE ME
YOU...
OVERSEER MAHIR!!
GENERAL, WHAT'S THE MATTER?
I NEED TEN SLAVES FOR SAWAKA AND FAST!
NOW? GENERAL, I'M AFRAID THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE THE ONLY SLAVES I'VE SORTED THROUGH HAVE JUST BEEN BRANDED THEY CAN'T BE USED FOR AT LEAST THREE DAYS
WELL GIVE ME THE UNBRANDED ONES IT DOESN'T MATTER IF THEY'RE WARRIOR SLAVES OR NOT MAYOR JAVE WANTS THEM NOW!

ALL RIGHT, FINE THIS ONE
AND THIS ONE
UP TO THIS ONE HERE
THESE WILL DO. THANKS, OVERSEER MAHR!
THEY WON'T BE GOOD FIGHTS, GENERAL!
Uh...Hi?
UNLUCKY. EVEN FOR SLAVES.
IF THEY'D BEEN ABLE TO REMAIN HERE, AT LEAST SOME OF THEM WOULD HAVE LIVED.

WELL, PRINCESS, THIS IS IT THE SAWAKA COMBAT STADIUM-- THE PRIDE OF WAKA! WHAT DO YOU THINK?
AAAAAAH!

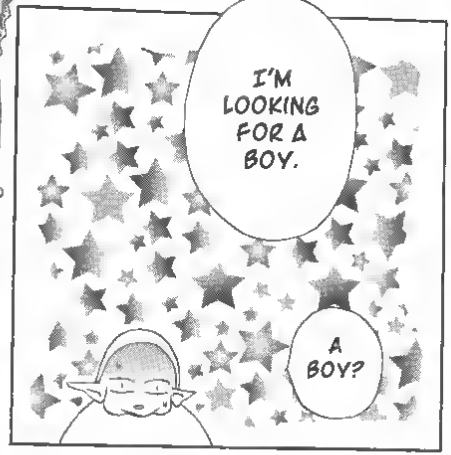
SO THIS IS THE FAMOUS SAWAKA, IS IT?
WELL THEN, THIS SHOULD BE INTERESTING, TO SAY THE LEAST.

SO UH— PRIN-CESS
WHO IS YOUR GUEST?
HE LOOKS...ER... IS HE YOUR BODYGUARD?

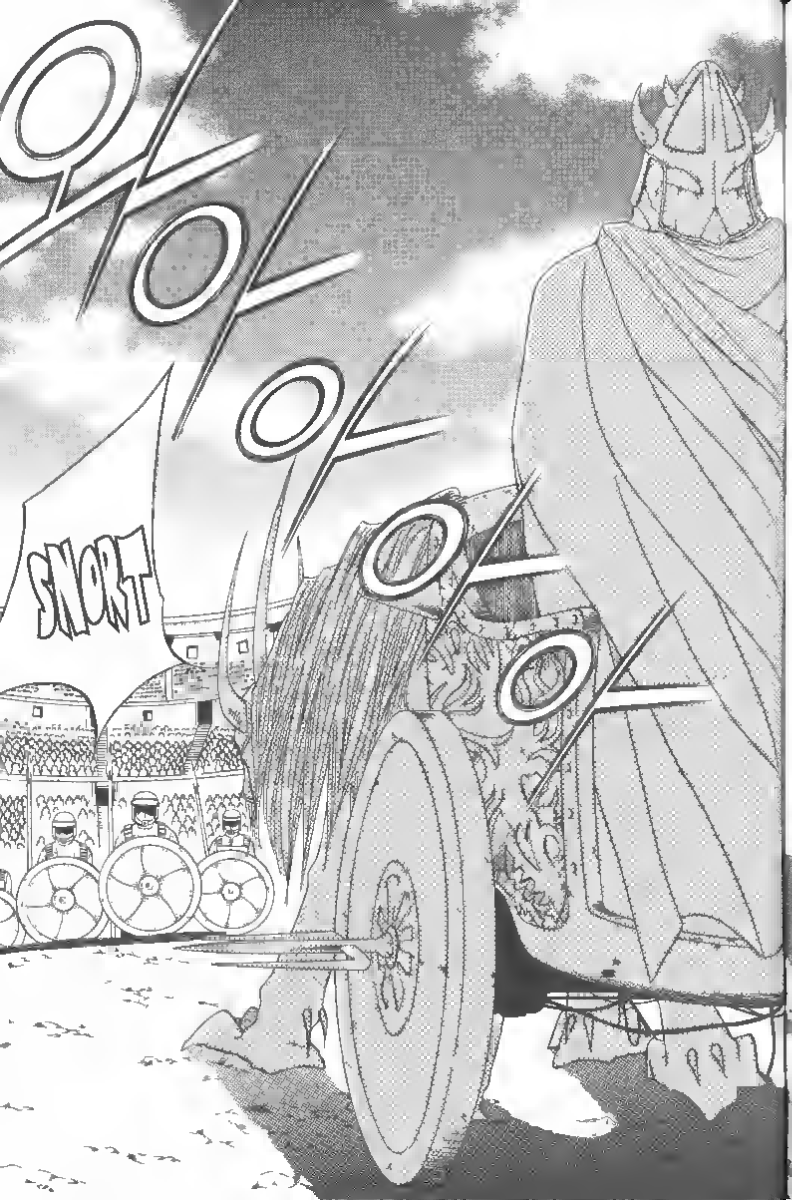

SO, THIS MAYOR IS NOT QUITE AS STUPID AS HE LOOKS
PAY HIM NO HEED, MAYOR HE IS NOTHING BUT A HUMBLE SERVANT UNWORTHY OF YOUR NOTICE.
BESIDES THAT, MAYOR, I'M WONDERING IF YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP ME WITH SOMETHING.

—THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT CAN YOU HELP ME, MAYOR?
PRINCESS, WHATEVER YOU REQUIRE, I WILL PERSONALLY DELIVER I WOULD BRING YOU THE STARS IN THE SKY YOU HAVE BUT TO ASK
MAYOR, YOU FLATTER ME BUT I NEED NOTHING SO IMPRACTICAL
HO HO HO!

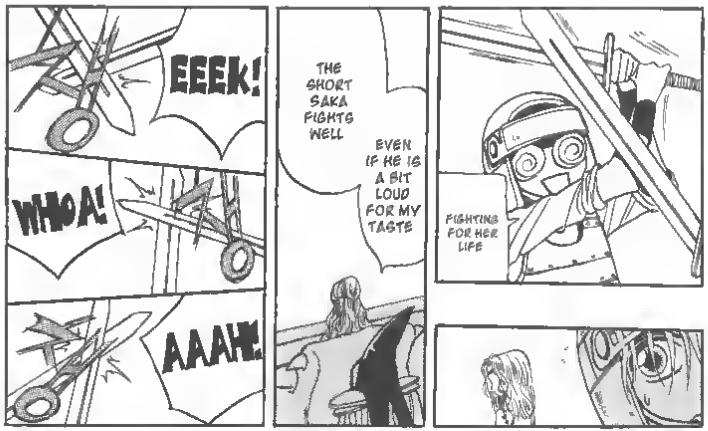
WAKA HAS A CERTAIN REPUTATION FROM WHAT I HEAR, THERE'S NOTHING THAT CAN'T BE PROCURED IN YOUR FINE CITY
RARE SEABIRDS OF SEVEN COLORS, JEWELS THAT SING EVEN MAGIC RUGS, YES?
AND I WAS THINKING...


I'M LOOKING FOR A BOY.
A BOY?

HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S FROM THIS CONTINENT-- DARK HAIR AND EYES.
HE'S YOUNG, PERHAPS 13 OR 14 AND HE HAS A RED THREE-LEAF EMBLEM ON HIS FOREHEAD
HA-RU...
HE'S QUITE SPECIAL TO ME. BUT, HE DISAPPEARED ON OUR WAY HOME. I'M HEARTBROKEN, MAYOR. CAN YOU HELP ME?
AAAAH!
THAT'S QUITE A BIT OF BAD LUCK, PRINCESS. LAY YOUR WORRIES TO REST. WE WILL FIND HIM FOR YOU
EXCELLENT, IT'S STARTING!
I PREPARED THE PROGRAM JUST FOR YOU, PRINCESS
UWAAAAH
I MANAGED TO PROCURE SOMETHING QUITE RARE-- SOMETHING I THINK MIGHT REMIND YOU OF HOME?
MAYOR, WHERE DID YOU--?!
WILAI'S TANK FORCES!
SNORT


SNORT

YOU KNOW, I DEALT WITH FALLING INTO AN ALIEN DESERT AND BECOMING A SLAVE
AND I'M HANDLING FALLING OFF A CLIFF AND ALMOST DYING ONLY TO BECOME A SLAVE TO SOMEONE ELSE PRETTY WELL, TOO!
BUT SERIOUSLY... TANKS?!
와아아


EEEK!
WHOA!
AAAH!
THE SHORT SAKA FIGHTS WELL
EVEN IF HE IS A BIT LOUD FOR MY TASTE
FIGHTING FOR HER LIFE

YANOK! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? PAY ATTENTION!! FIGHT!

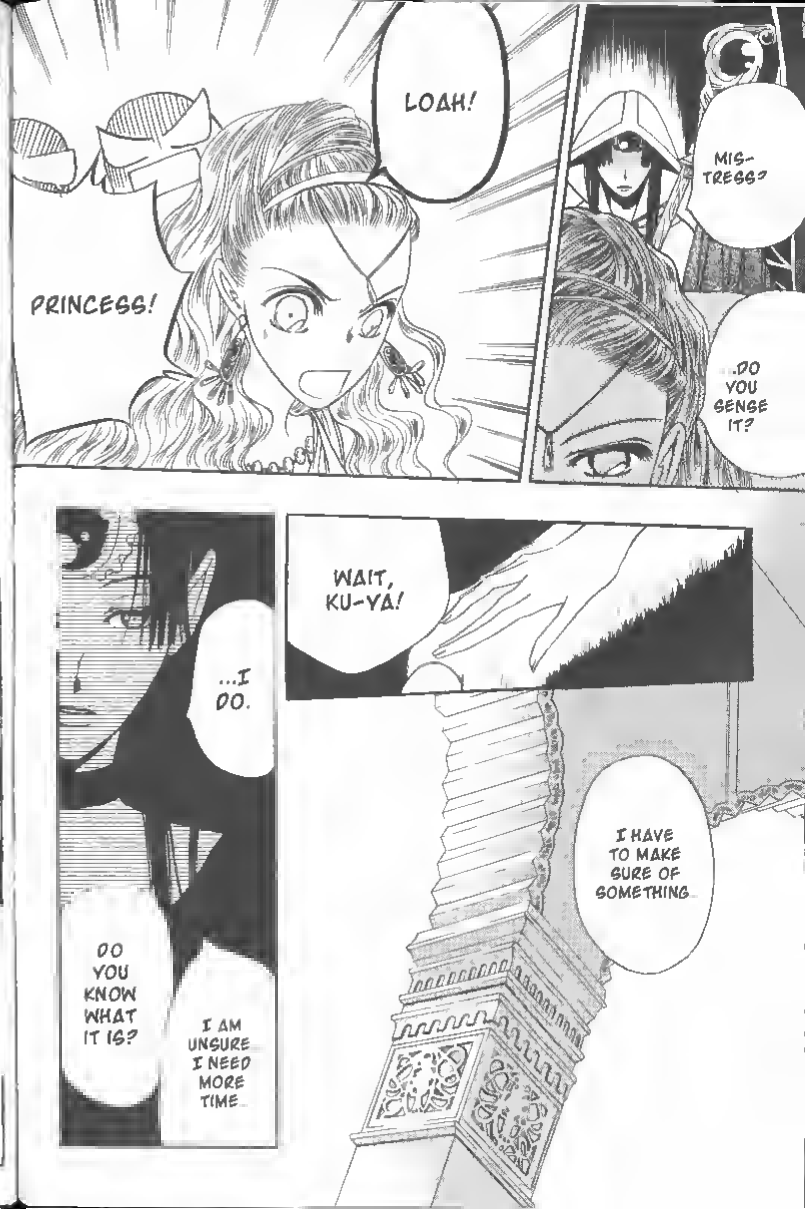
YANOK!

...HA-RU?

IT'S HA-RU!

OOF!
HA-RU?!

WHY IS HA-RU IN SAWAKA?
HA-RU...?
HIM?
MAYOR, YOU MUST STOP THE BATTLE IMMEDIATELY!
PREPOS-TEROUS!
PRINCESS? WHO IS THIS VAGABOND BARKING ORDERS AT ME?
PRINCESS! THAT'S HA-RU DOWN THERE. TELL THIS STINKING PIG OF A MAYOR TO STOP THE BATTLE!
THE FIGHT HAS ONLY JUST STARTED.
CALL THE BATTLE OFF RIGHT NOW!


LOAH!
PRINCESS!
MIS-TRESS?
...DO YOU SENSE IT?
...I DO.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS?
I AM UNSURE. I NEED MORE TIME.
WAIT, KU-YA!
I HAVE TO MAKE SURE OF SOMETHING.

CLANG
YANOK!!
PICK UP YOUR SWORD AND FIGHT!!
ARGGH!
YANOK!
...WHY?

WE'RE ALL GOING TO DIE.
WHAT?

IT WAS MEANT TO BE THIS WAY

THIS IS NOT A BATTLE
THEY'RE PITTING BATTLE-HARDENED SOLDIERS AGAINST SLAVES WHO HAVE NEVER FOUGHT IN THEIR LIVES

IT'S A MASSACRE.

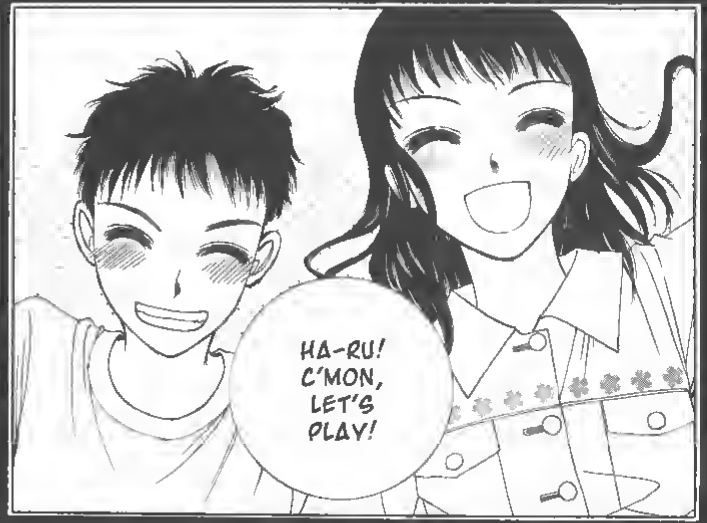
WHAT...?
NO... NO.
AFTER ALL THIS... I DIDN'T COME HERE TO DIE!

NO!
I'M FIGHTING TO LIVE!!

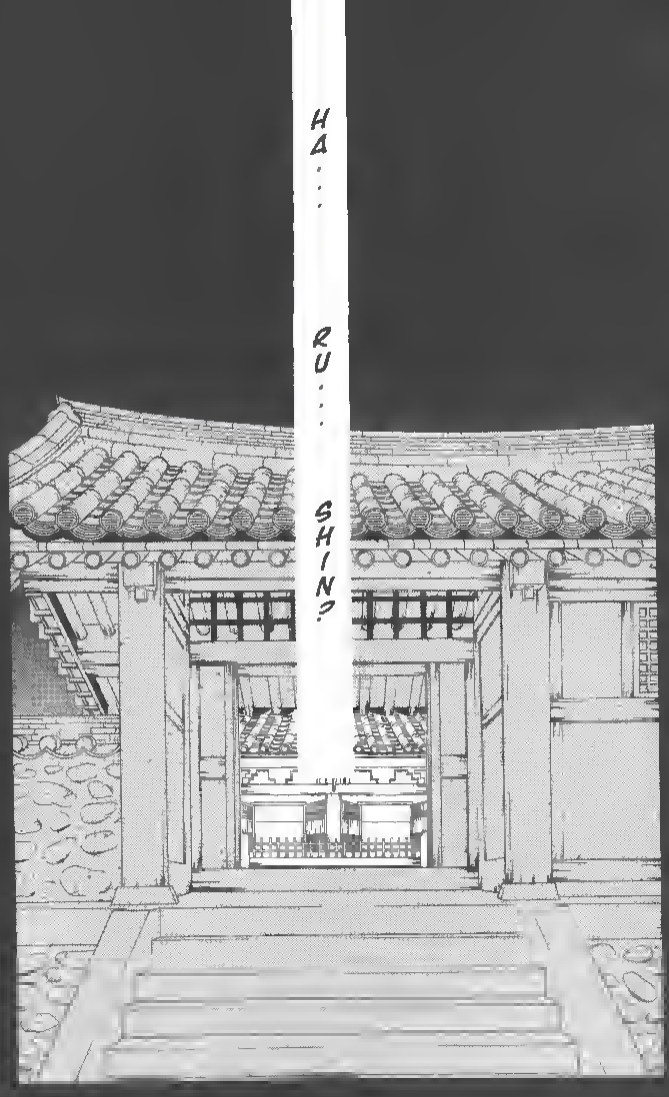
CLANG

I WISH YOU WOULD DISAPPEAR.

HA-RU, I'M SO PROUD OF YOU, LITTLE SISTER


HA-RU! C'MON, LET'S PLAY!

MY SLAVE MY PERSON YOU'RE MINE


HA...
RU...
SHIN?

HA-RU!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? GET OUT OF THE WAY!
CONTROL YOURSELF, KU-YA!!
DON'T THINK FOR A SECOND I WON'T SLIT YOUR THROAT RIGHT HERE. NOW GET OUT OF MY WAY.
SHANG
I SHOULON'T HAVE TRUSTED YOU, AZUS!
HA-RU IS DEAD BECAUSE OF YOUR SELFISHNESS!
NOW, FOR MY PAYMENT HA-RU'S LIFE FOR YOURS.
HOW DARE YOU THREATEN THE PRINCESS?!

...YOU.
YOU'VE DRAWN YOUR SWORD AGAINST ME.
THAT TAKES NERVE. AND PERHAPS A LITTLE STUPIDITY. I THINK I LIKE IT.
IF YOU CAME AND WORKED FOR ME, KU-YA, I COULD MAKE YOU INTO A REAL WARRIOR.

DON'T WASTE YOUR BREATH, PRINCESS! DO YOU THINK I WON'T KILL YOU RIGHT HERE AND NOW?
I DO THINK WE MAY NEED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT ATTITUDE OF YOURS.
BUT BEFORE YOU SLIT MY THROAT, LOOK
SOME-THING MORE INTERESTING THAN SAWAKA IS HAPPENING.

...FISH?

WHAT ARE YOU?
HOW DID YOU GET HERE?
I FEEL LIKE... I KNOW YOU.
ARE YOU HERE TO SAVE ME?

...LUKIA?
AH HA HA, STOP.
YOU'RE TICKLING ME.
HA-RU...
YOU'RE A LUKIA.
LUKIA?

I'VE NEVER HEARD OF... LUKIA?
WHAT'S THAT?
LOOK, HE'S A LUKIA!
A LUKIA SLAVE? IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE?
WHY IS A LUKIA FIGHTING IN THE SAWAKA?
A LUKIA SLAVE? I'LL BUY HIM!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHAT'S GOING ON?
NO, I'LL BUY HIM. I'LL PAY DOUBLE!

LUKIA!
LUKIA!
HOW COULD THIS BE? HOW COULD A LUKIA BE A SLAVE ..?
WHOEVER HAS HIM FIRST IS MASTER!

GRAB HIM.
DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!
LUKIA!

GRAB HIM!
AAAHHH!!

!!
!!
YANOK?!

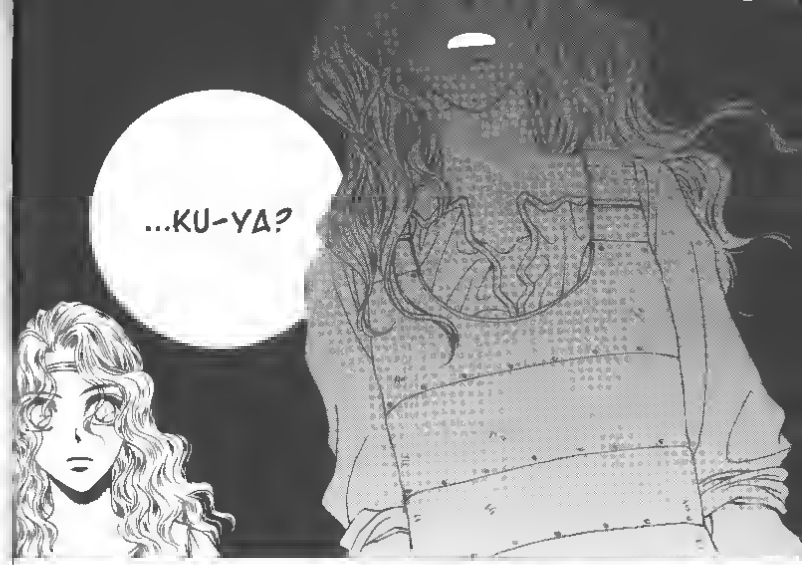
HA-RU! RUN!!
YANOK? WHY. ?
HURRY! THEY'RE OUT OF THEIR MINDS!!
HMPH!
THAT'S IT. GO AND GET THE LUKIA FOR ME.

A LUKIA, HERE. HOW AUSPICIOUS!
SLICE
EH?

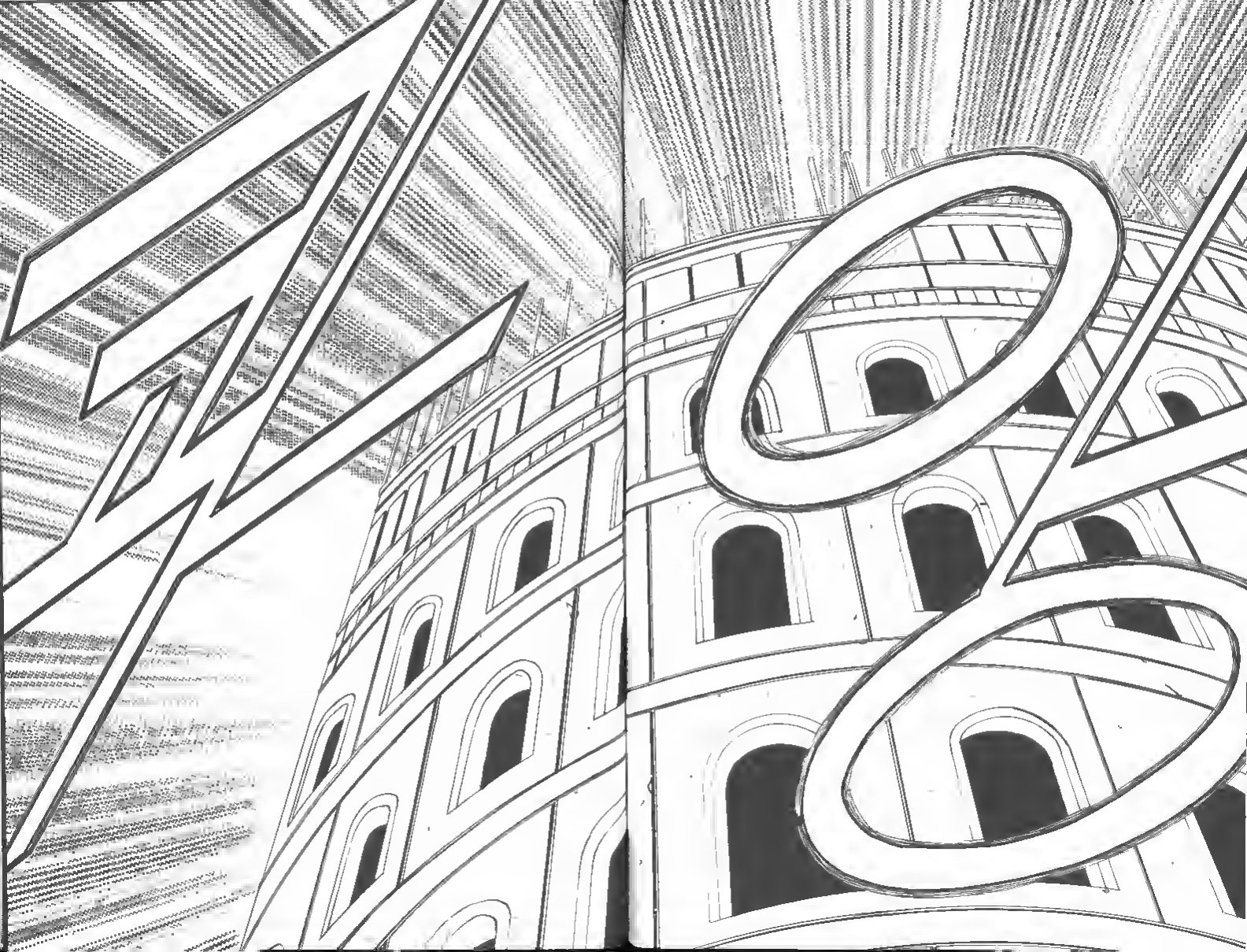
GASP!
W-WHAT'S GOING ON?!

AH!
YOU BASTARD! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

...A BLACK SHRINE WARRIOR?
WHAT IS A BLACK SHRINE WARRIOR DOING HERE?


...KU-YA?

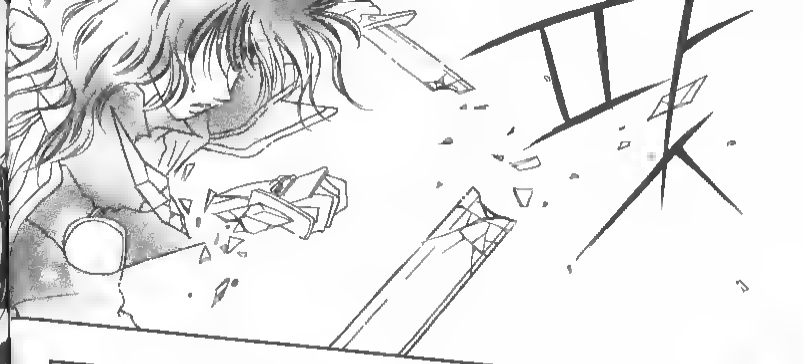
KU-YA!
MOVE OUT OF THE WAY!
VOICE OF THE NETHER, SPEAK!



TRULY AMAZING
WELL DONE, LOAH.

DIS-OBEDIENCE CAN NEVER GO UN-PUNISHED.
ERGH...

DAM-
MIT
AZUS...
PRINCESS...!!



KU-YA!!
WHY IS EVERYONE STANDING AROUND GAPING?
THROW THAT FILTHY UPSTART IN PRISON!!
MAYOR JAVA I APOLOGIZE FOR MY SUBORDINATE AND THE UPSET AND INJURY HE'S CAUSED
I WILL COMPENSATE YOU FOR YOUR TROUBLES WILL THIRTY GOLD SUFFICE?
MAYOR JAVA, I ASSURE YOU, IT'S NO TROUBLE CONSIDER IT A TOKEN OF GRATITUDE
OH NO, PRINCESS THAT'S FAR TOO MUCH DON'T TROUBLE YOURSELF
WHICH BRINGS ME TO THE MATTER OF THE LUKIA HOW WILL WE DECIDE WHO HE BELONGS TO?

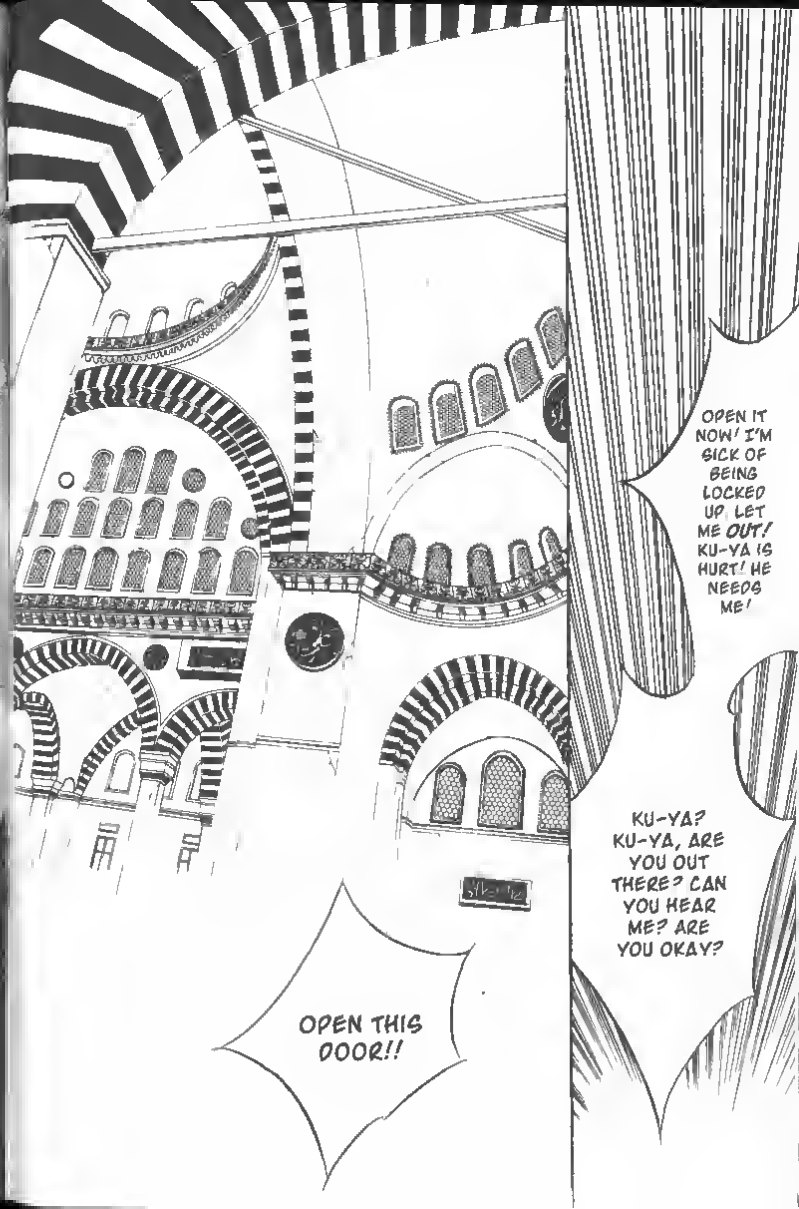
WELL, HIGHNESS, I'M THE MAYOR, SO IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT--
A SLAVE IN SUWAKA SHOULD BE PROPERTY OF THE CITY!
HERE, HERE!
YES, BUT I ESTAB-LISHED THE SUWAKA, SO HE SHOULD BE MINE
HE'S RIGHT! WE SHOULD HOLD AN AUCTION!
YOU KNOW AS WELL AS ANYONE THAT A SLAVE WHO COMES TO SUWAKA HAS NO OWNER! OTHERWISE, HOW COULD THE WINNER BE FREED?
AN AUCTION...
PRINCESS?
MAYOR, IF I MAY?
THE SLAVE IS THE PROPERTY OF SAWAKA, SO LET US ALLOW SAWAKA TO DECIDE BEGIN THE COMPETITION AGAIN
THE WINNING PRIZE WILL BE THE SLAVE

YES, A BATTLE! I WILL SEND MY SAKA!
YES, LISTEN TO THE PRINCESS! IT'LL BE A GREAT TOURNAMENT!
BUT PRINCESS, YOU DON'T HAVE A SAKA HOW WILL YOU COMPETE?
EXCELLENT QUESTION, MAYOR.

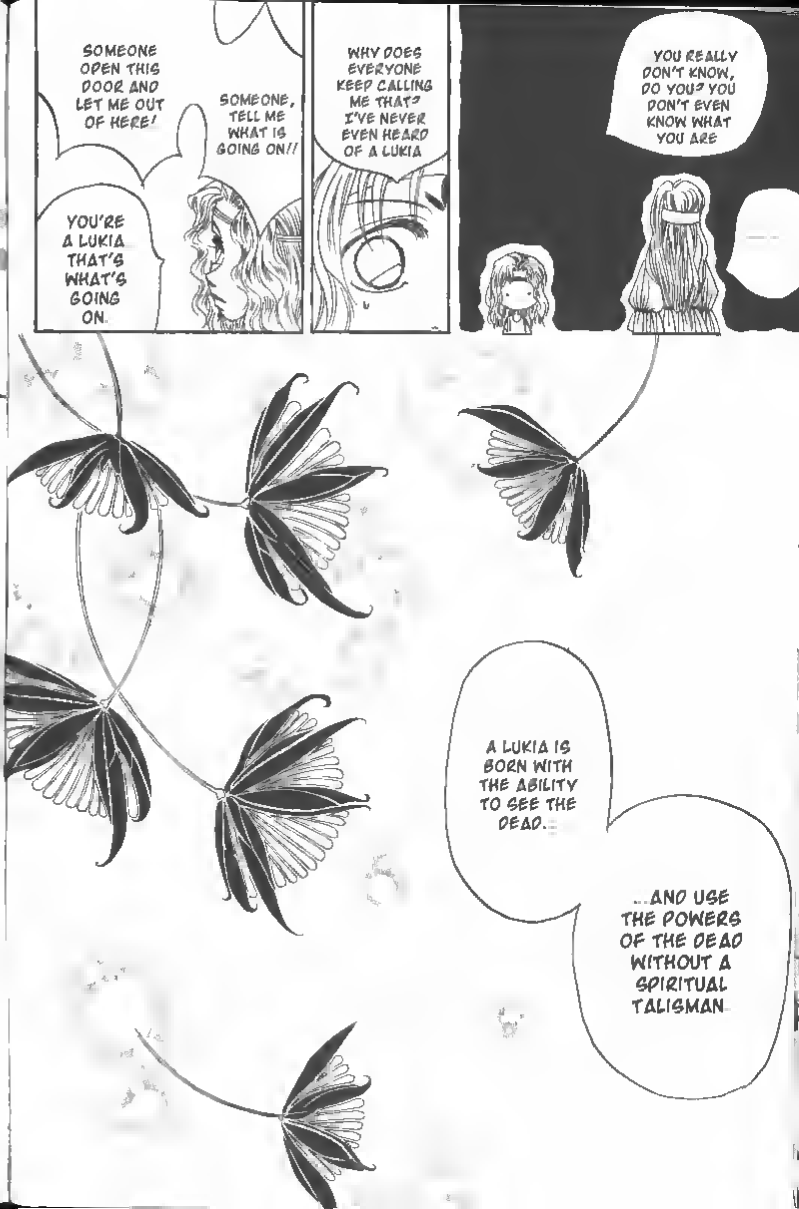
BUT I BELIEVE I HAVE A SUITABLE SOLUTION
KU-YA YOU WILL SERVE AS MY WARRIOR SLAVE

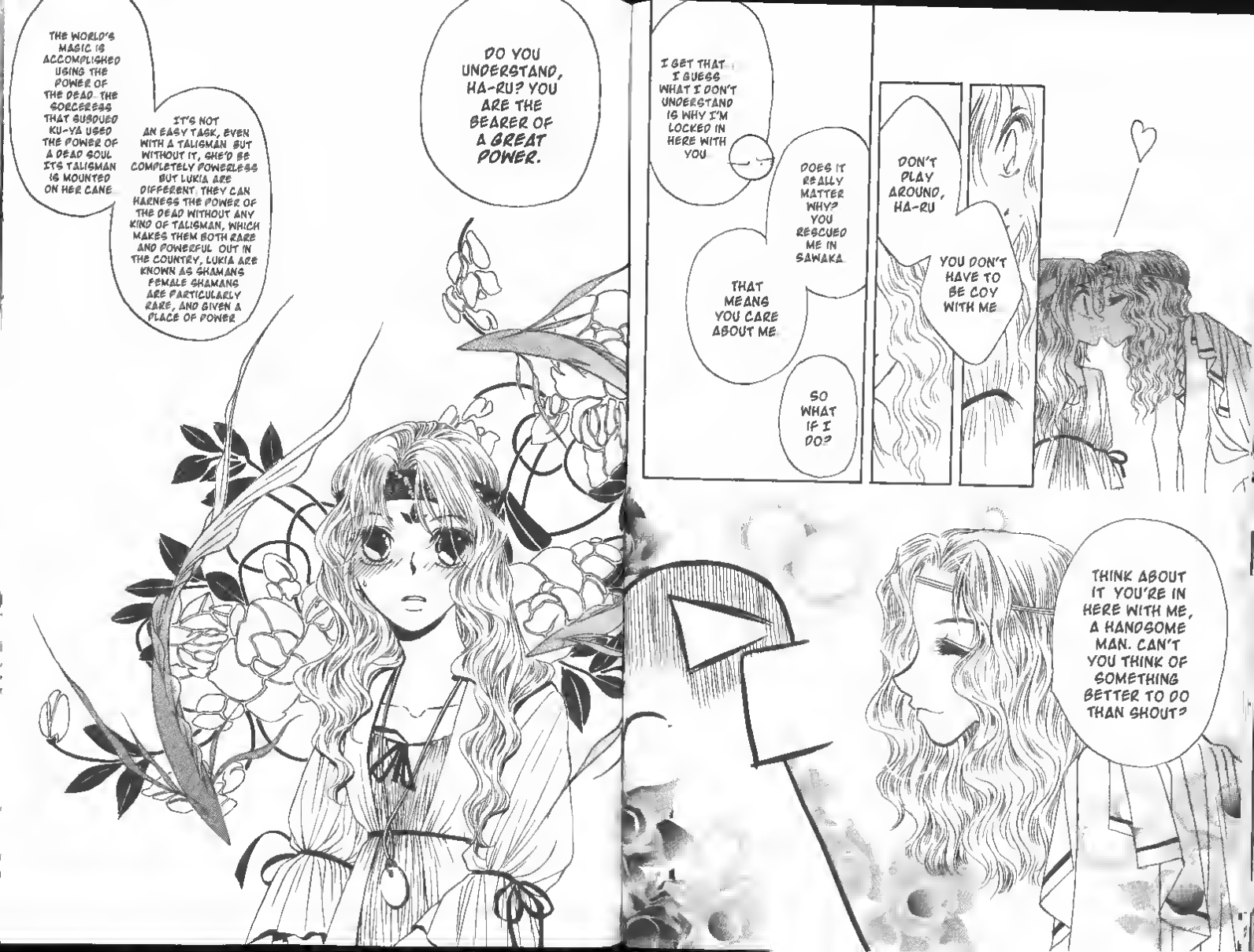
THIS IS YOUR PUNISH-MENT FOR DISGRACING ME IN FRONT OF THE CITIZENS OF WAKA
YOUR SIN WILL BE WASHED CLEAN IN THE SAWAKA ARENA.
IF YOU WIN, KU-YA, YOU WILL BE FORGIVEN. AND AS A TOKEN OF MY FORGIVENESS, I WILL GRANT YOU CONTROL OF THE SLAVE DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

GIRL
I WILL NOT FAIL HIGHNESS THAT I PROMISE

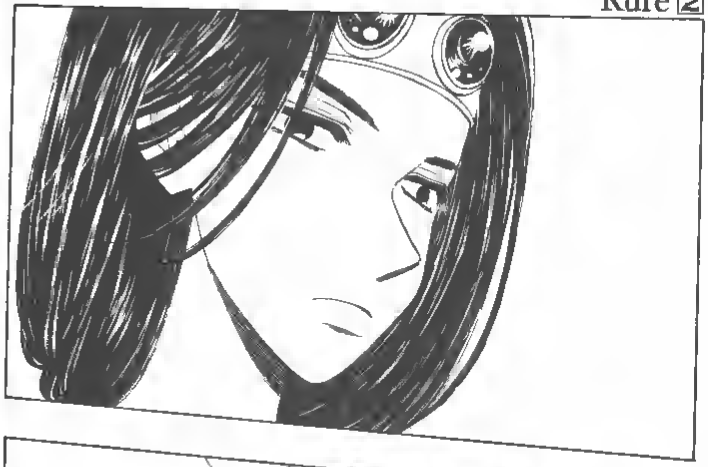

OPEN IT NOW! I'M SICK OF BEING LOCKED UP. LET ME OUT! KU-YA IS HURT! HE NEEDS ME!
KU-YA? KU-YA, ARE YOU OUT THERE? CAN YOU HEAR ME? ARE YOU OKAY?
OPEN THIS DOOR!!

STOP SHOUTING IT'S OBVIOUS THEY'RE IGNORING YOU.
WELL, I'LL JUST HAVE TO KEEP TRYING, THEN. THEY TOOK KU-YA!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IN THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE, BUT I HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE!
THIS IS ALL JUST TOO MUCH! THEY BATHED ME. THEY PUT ME IN A DRESS. AND THEY STUCK ME IN HERE WITH YOU. IF THEY KNEW I WAS A GIRL, THEY COULD HAVE AT LEAST GIVEN US SEPARATE ROOMS!


SOMEONE OPEN THIS DOOR AND LET ME OUT OF HERE!
YOU'RE A LUKIA THAT'S WHAT'S GOING ON.
SOMEONE, TELL ME WHAT IS GOING ON!!
WHY DOES EVERYONE KEEP CALLING ME THAT? I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF A LUKIA
YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW, DO YOU? YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU ARE
A LUKIA IS BORN WITH THE ABILITY TO SEE THE DEAD.
...AND USE THE POWERS OF THE DEAD WITHOUT A SPIRITUAL TALISMAN.


THE WORLD'S MAGIC IS ACCOMPLISHED USING THE POWER OF THE DEAD. THE SORCERESS THAT SUBDUED KU-YA USED THE POWER OF A DEAD SOUL. ITS TALISMAN IS MOUNTED ON HER CANE.
IT'S NOT AN EASY TASK, EVEN WITH A TALISMAN. BUT WITHOUT IT, SHE'D BE COMPLETELY POWERLESS. BUT LUKIA ARE DIFFERENT. THEY CAN HARNESS THE POWER OF THE DEAD WITHOUT ANY KIND OF TALISMAN, WHICH MAKES THEM BOTH RARE AND POWERFUL. OUT IN THE COUNTRY, LUKIA ARE KNOWN AS SHAMANS. FEMALE SHAMANS ARE PARTICULARLY RARE, AND GIVEN A PLACE OF POWER.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND, HA-RU? YOU ARE THE BEARER OF A GREAT POWER.
I GET THAT. I GUESS WHAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND IS WHY I'M LOCKED IN HERE WITH YOU.
DOES IT REALLY MATTER WHY? YOU RESCUED ME IN SAWAKA.
THAT MEANS YOU CARE ABOUT ME.
SO WHAT IF I DO?
DON'T PLAY AROUND, HA-RU
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE COY WITH ME
THINK ABOUT IT. YOU'RE IN HERE WITH ME, A HANDSOME MAN. CAN'T YOU THINK OF SOMETHING BETTER TO DO THAN SHOUT?

BACK OFF! WHAT DO YOU THINK I AM?! DON'T TOUCH ME, PIG!



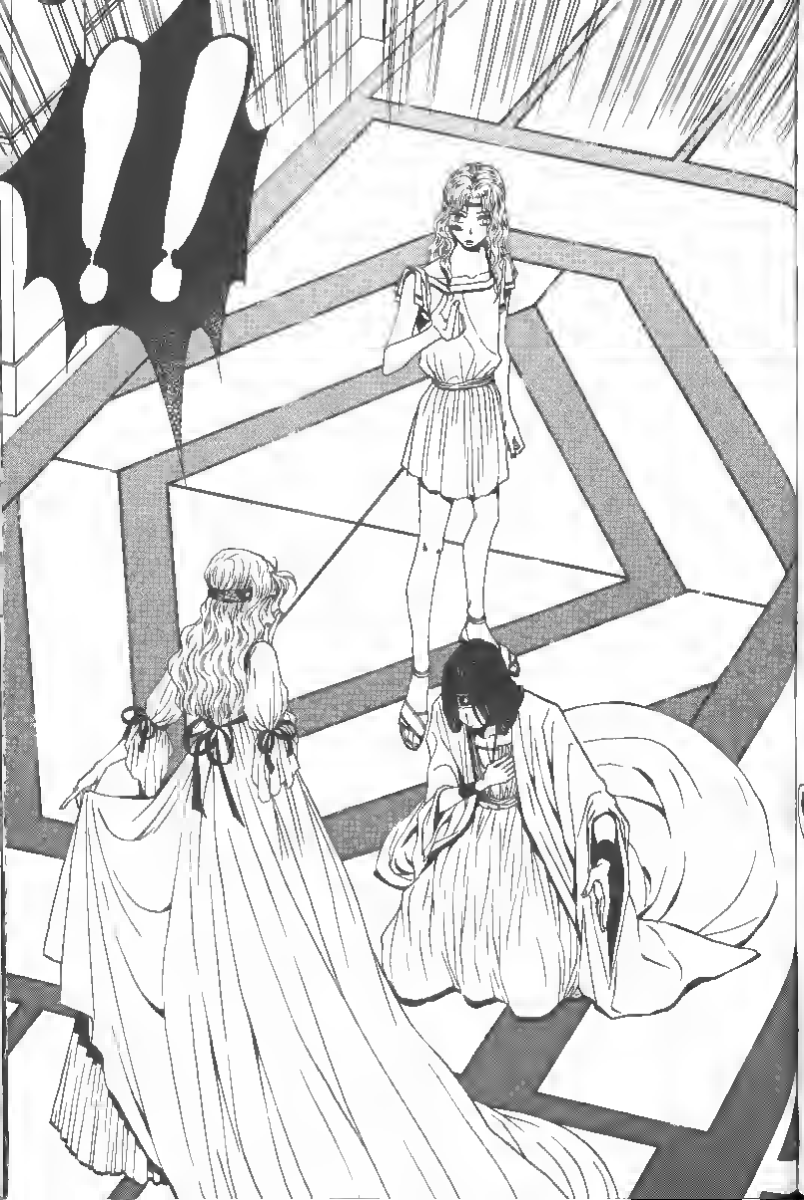
MAHIR ..ER .. I MEAN, OVERSEER?

OW, THAT REALLY HURT!

WHY DID YOU HIT ME? I WAS JUST TRYING TO--
OH...

SMACK
WAIT, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
STUPID IMBECILE!!
YOU LEFT HOME FOR THIS? TO BECOME THIS.. THIS... DISGRACE?
BROTHER.. I...

WAIT, WHAT?!
THE OVERSEER IS YANOK'S BROTHER?
...AND HERE IS THE SLAVE.
THAT'S DEFINITELY IT
NO DOUBT, THE MARK OF A LUKIA. I CAN SENSE THE POWER
WELL.. IT DOESN'T MATTER.
BOW
AS A SON OF THE BLUE MOON CLAN, MAHIR ERUGAMODUS
. I SALUTE YOU WITH BROTHERLY PATRONAGE
WHAT IS HE DOING?
EH?!!



THE EARTH HAS THREE MOONS.

THE SILVER ONE IS ASHAS
THE GOLD ONE IS AHIR.

AND THE SINGLE ONE THAT'S FAR AWAY IS THE BLUE MOON WITH NO NAME

WHY DOESN'T IT HAVE A NAME?

BECAUSE IT WASN'T ALWAYS THERE.
ACCORDING TO THE LEGEND, 1,000 YEARS AGO IT SUDDENLY APPEARED IN THE SKY. NO ONE KNEW HOW OR WHY.
SO NO ONE NAMED IT. AND THERE ARE NO SHRINES DEVOTED TO IT. SOMETHING THAT APPEARED SO SUDDENLY, COULD VANISH JUST AS QUICKLY.

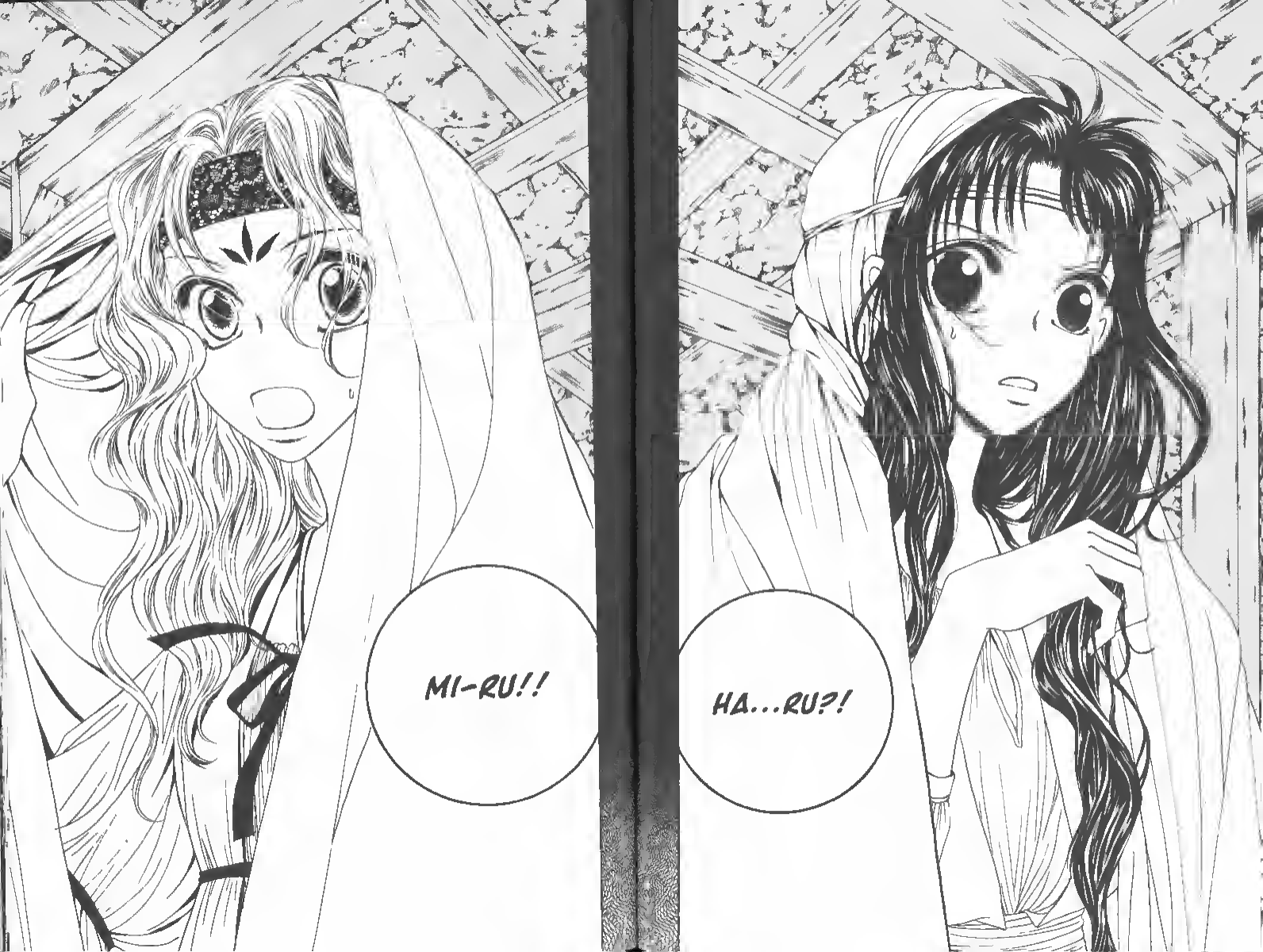
.....
A LOT LIKE YOU, HUH?

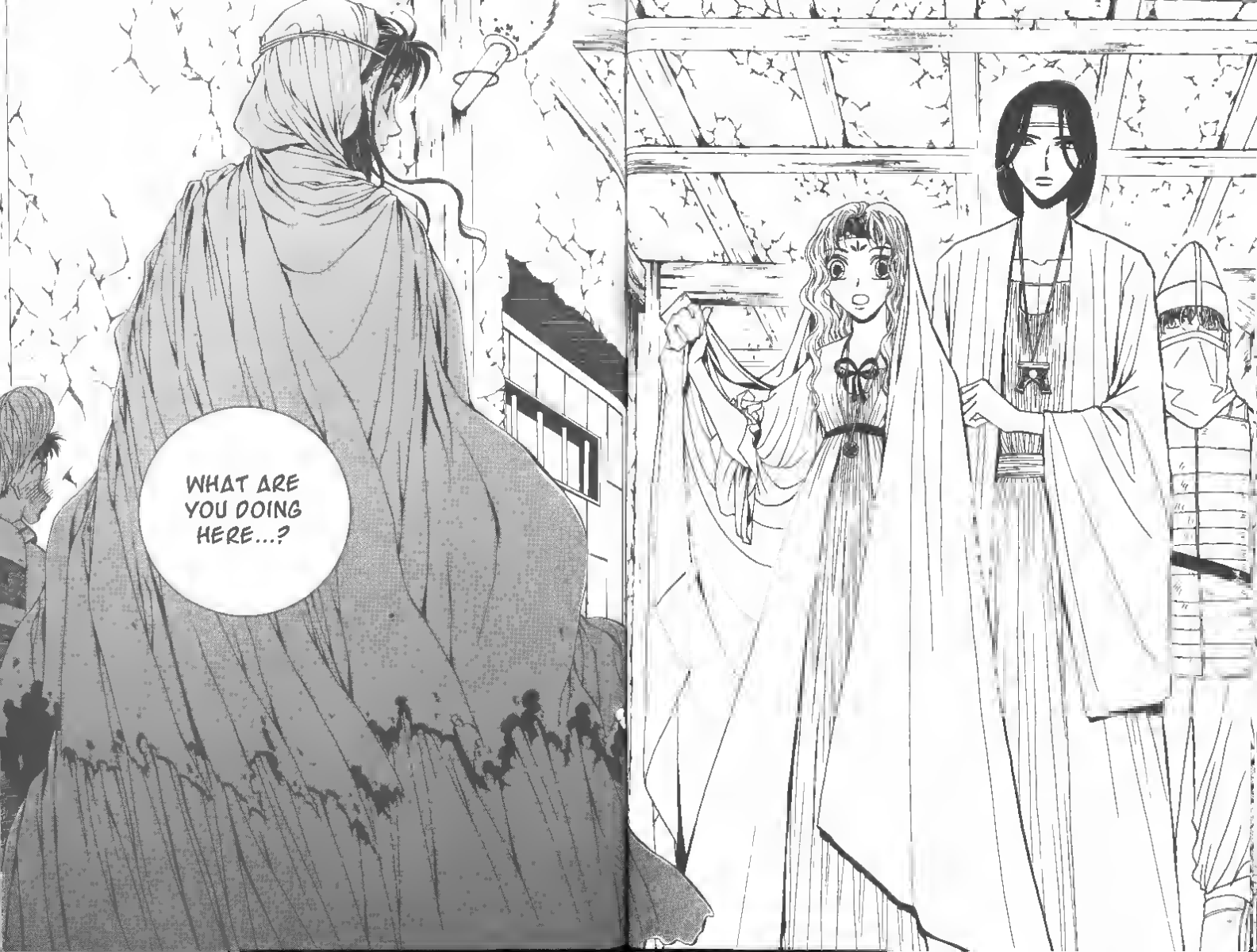
HA-RU SHIN, WHO APPEARED ALL OF A SUDDEN IN THE DESERT. WILL YOU DISAPPEAR?

COME THIS WAY.
THE CLAN THAT SERVES THE BLUE MOON..

THANK YOU, MAHIR. I'M SURE MY MASTER WILL REWARD YOU
ACCORDING TO KU-YA, THE BLUE MOON DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A SANCTUARY
I SEEK NO REWARD. IT IS MY DUTY TO AID YOU
MAYBE I HEARD HIM WRONG. OR ELSE KU-YA WAS WRONG
BUT I WARN YOU HE ISN'T IN THE BEST CONDITION.
THIS IS IT.
HE'S IN THERE.

KU-YA! ARE YOU IN THERE? IT'S ME, HA-RU SHIN! YOUR SLAVE! YOUR PERSON!
MASTER!
CAN YOU HEAR ME? ARE YOU OKAY?
WHO'S THERE?
SH-SHOW YOURSELF!
HA-RU! YOU'RE ALIVE!!
HA-RU?
CAN IT REALLY BE YOU?
.....
.....

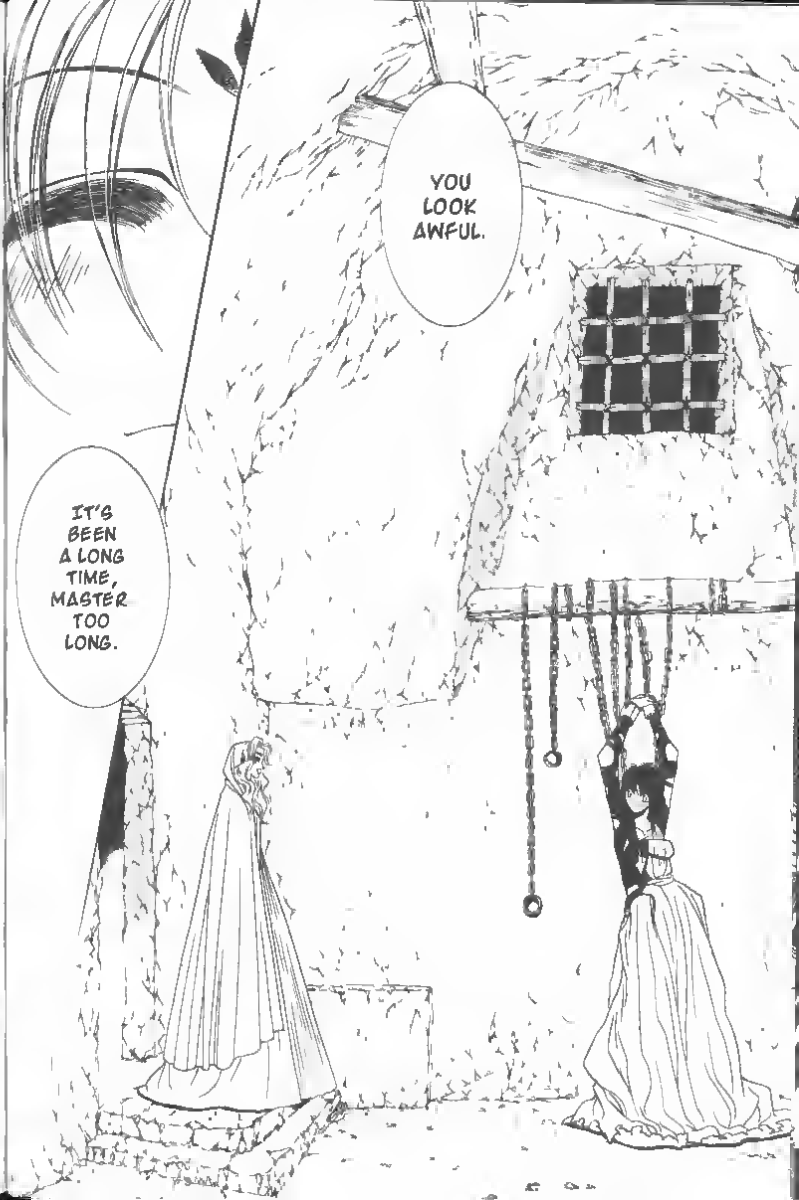

MI-RU!!
HA...RU?!


WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE...?

HA
HA-RU!!
MI-RU! YOU'RE SAFE--
MY LORD!!
...MI-RU?
WAKE UP, MY LORD!!
OH MY GOD... WHAT HAPPENED? WHO DID THIS?

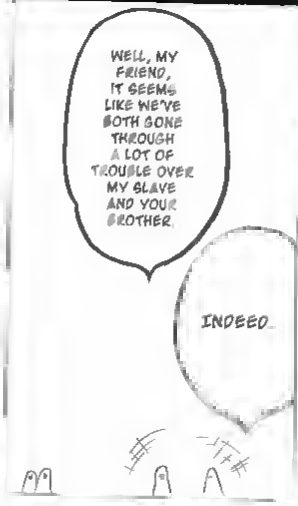
CAN YOU HEAR ME? WAKE UP!
HA-RU?
WAKE UP!!
KU-YA!
MI-RU?
HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?
PRINCESS AZUS?
PRINCESS AZUS GOT ME IN

PRINCESS THOUGHT YOU MIGHT NEED HELP, BUT I NEVER THOUGHT...
WHO DID THIS? WHO IN THE WORLD COULD DO SUCH A THING?
HA-RU...
I THOUGHT I HEARD HIS VOICE IS HE HERE?
HMPH AZUS, SHE GIVES THE DISEASE AND THE CURE
HA-RU?!


YOU LOOK AWFUL.
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, MASTER TOO LONG.

YES, THERE'S A REASON FOR THAT
THIS IS MAKIR AND YANOK
THEY'VE HELPED ME WHILE I'VE BEEN HERE

I AM KU-YA, MERCENARY OF THE AH SKA SEU CLAN. I THANK YOU FOR LOOKING AFTER MY FOOLISH SLAVE.
FOOLISH?! MASTER?!
NO THANKS ARE NEEDED I AM THE SLAVE OVERSEER, AND IT IS I WHO SHOULD THANK YOU AND HA-EU FOR SAVING MY WORTHLESS BROTHER
In fact Yanok didn't do much for her at all


WELL, MY FRIEND, IT SEEMS LIKE WE'VE BOTH GONE THROUGH A LOT OF TROUBLE OVER MY SLAVE AND YOUR BROTHER
INDEED...

IF YOU HELP US ESCAPE, YOU'LL BE BLAMED I CAN'T ALLOW THAT

I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT WE ARE PART OF THE BLUE MOON CLAN

HA-RU, HOW DID YOU GET MIXED UP WITH SUCH DISHONEST PEOPLE? WHY DID YOU BRING THEM INTO THIS?
GET OUT! WE DON'T WANT YOUR HELP. AH SHA SEU, FORGIVE ME!
...CHA KI?
NAG
YOU ARE EITHER RECKLESS OR VERY STUPID
WHAT? I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
IF I TELL MY CAPTORS YOU'RE PART OF THE BLUE MOON CLAN, THEY'LL LET ME GO. AND MAYBE HAVE YOUR HEADS BUT YOU MUST KNOW THAT...
SO WHY REVEAL YOUR SECRET?
SIMPLE. I AM REPAYING A KINDNESS THAT REQUIRES HONESTY. IF I COME TO HARM BECAUSE OF IT... THEN THAT IS MY FATE. I WILL HAVE NO REGRETS

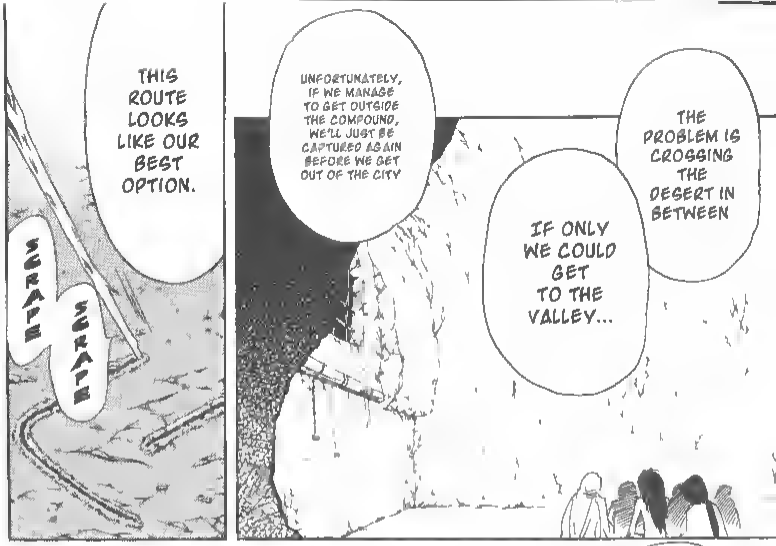
GRIN
BWA HA HA HA HA HA!
YOU'RE TELLING THE TRUTH, AREN'T YOU? YOU'RE BEING COMPLETELY SINCERE. INTERESTING. WELL, I KNOW HOW THE BLUE MOON CLAN REPAYS KINDNESS. I ACCEPT YOUR HELP, WITH THANKS.
KU-YA!! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?!
AND I THANK YOU FOR PRESERVING WHAT LITTLE HONOR MY BROTHER HAS LEFT.
NO, IT IS I WHO SHOULD BE THANKING YOU
KU-YA!!
UH...CHA KI? THEY'VE BEEN GOOD TO ME. CAN'T WE JUST ACCEPT THEIR HELP?
OF COURSE NOT!
THE BLUE MOON CLAN IS WELL KNOWN FOR THEIR EVIL SORCERY! AND THEY'RE SO SECRETIVE. DO THEY LET ANYONE ELSE INTO THEIR TERRITORY? NO! ACCEPT KINDNESS FROM THEM? DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS TO PEOPLE WHO ACCEPT KINDNESS FROM THEM?

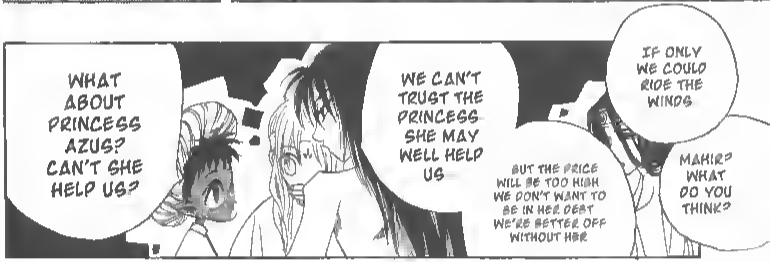
THEY END UP WITH A KNIFE IN THEIR BACK! THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS.
CHA KI...
YANOK IS A GOOD PERSON.
AFTER MY FALL, I WAS WEAK AND SICK. YANOK NURSED ME BACK TO HEALTH, AND HE SAVED ME FROM BEING BRANDED. HE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW ME, AND HE PUT HIMSELF ON THE LINE TO HELP ME.
THE KIND OF PERSON YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT WOULDN'T DO THAT.
YANOK SAVED ME, CHA KI. I OWE HIM. IT IS ME THAT SHOULD BE PAYING HIM BACK, BUT INSTEAD HE'S HELPING ME AGAIN. DOESN'T THAT MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?
I CAN'T SPEAK FOR MAHIR--HE DID TRY TO BRAND ME AFTER ALL.
BUT I WANT TO TRUST YANOK.

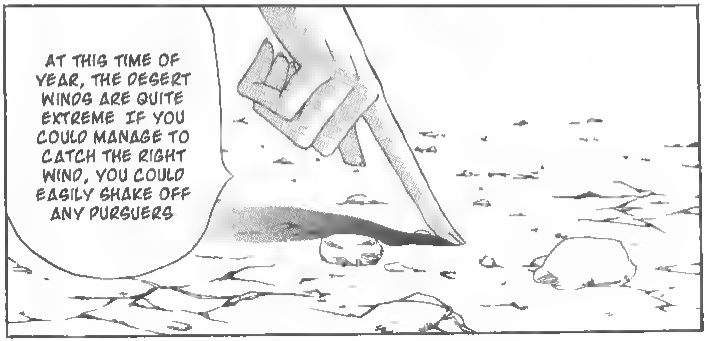
OKAY FINE!
THE WAY THAT I TRUST YOU, CHA KI. AND THE WAY I TRUST MASTER
WHEN YOU SAY IT LIKE THAT...
THANKS, CHA KI. YOU WON'T REGRET IT. ♡

THAT'S HA-RU SHIN.
EVERYONE LOVES HER.
EVERYONE IS ON HER SIDE.
SHE'S EVERYTHING I'M NOT SHE GETS EVERYTHING I WANT

WILL IT BE THAT WAY WITH YOU, KU-YA?

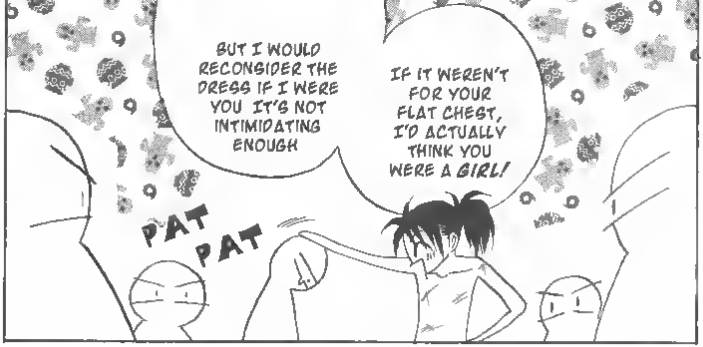

THIS ROUTE LOOKS LIKE OUR BEST OPTION.
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
UNFORTUNATELY, IF WE MANAGE TO GET OUTSIDE THE COMPOUND, WE'LL JUST BE CAPTURED AGAIN BEFORE WE GET OUT OF THE CITY
THE PROBLEM IS CROSSING THE DESERT IN BETWEEN
IF ONLY WE COULD GET TO THE VALLEY...


WHAT ABOUT PRINCESS AZUS? CAN'T SHE HELP US?
WE CAN'T TRUST THE PRINCESS SHE MAY WELL HELP US
BUT THE PRICE WILL BE TOO HIGH WE DON'T WANT TO BE IN HER DEBT WE'RE BETTER OFF WITHOUT HER
IF ONLY WE COULD RIDE THE WINDS
MAHIR? WHAT DO YOU THINK?


AT THIS TIME OF YEAR, THE DESERT WINDS ARE QUITE EXTREME IF YOU COULD MANAGE TO CATCH THE RIGHT WIND, YOU COULD EASILY SHAKE OFF ANY PURSUERS

THEN THAT'S WHAT WE'LL HAVE TO DO. IT'S THE ONLY WAY.
WIND? SERIOUSLY? HOW CAN YOU KNOW WHEN A WIND WILL BLOW?
CAN'T YOU CREATE A WIND, HA-RU? YOU ARE A LUKIA AFTER ALL
HE'S RIGHT WHAT KIND OF TRAINING HAVE YOU HAD, HA-RU?
TRAINING? FOR WHAT?
FORGET IT YOU'RE COMPLETELY CLUELESS
CLUELESS?! WHO, ME?
I WILL SEE TO THE WIND.
THEN IT'S SETTLED.
ARE WE FINALLY GOING TO ESCAPE, THEN?
HA-RU, MI-RU, LET'S GET READY TO GO
UNTIL THEN...

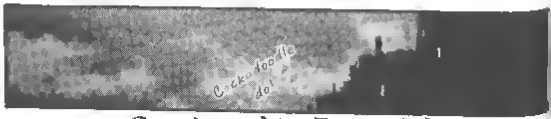
YOU'RE REALLY BEAT UP.
IT SEEMS YOU'RE ALWAYS GETTING HURT BECAUSE OF ME...
MASTER, YOU REALLY NEED TO TAKE BETTER CARE OF YOURSELF. YOU'RE NOT IMMORTAL, YOU KNOW?
SMART MOUTH.
A SLAVE ONLY NEEDS TO WORRY ABOUT OBEYING HIS MASTER.
BUT I HAVE TO SAY. I'M REALLY PROUD OF YOU YOU DID WELL IN THE ARENA. YOUR SWORD SKILLS ARE IMPROVING. YOU'RE BECOMING ONE OF US, AREN'T YOU?
KU-YA...


BUT I WOULD RECONSIDER THE DRESS IF I WERE YOU IT'S NOT INTIMIDATING ENOUGH
IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOUR FLAT CHEST, I'D ACTUALLY THINK YOU WERE A GIRL!
PAT
PAT

KU-YA'S AS BLIND AS A BAT♡

DAWN...

COME QUICKLY...



Continued in Rure Volume 3.

IN THE NEXT VOLUME OF...
RUKIA
Mi-ru!
It's a relief to find you awake, but the dangerous slave arena of Waka is not the best place to be! Before I lose my head, I'm just glad to have Ku-ya at my side. I know he can get us out of this mess! But if we're going back to the desert, we'll need the help of Cha ki's clan! Whether or not they'll accept us with open arms...is another issue...